

Christmas break is just one week away and the kids (and teachers) are getting excited. It's hard to believe that 2013 is coming to an end. We've enjoyed a productive first half of the year, and have much to be thankful for. We hope you get a chance to relax and recharge over the break. Enjoy the time with friends and families, and travel safely.

What's happening in Class

Our third grade team is focusing on strengthening the **comprehension** of students through small group instruction, and introduction of strategies to help struggling readers. Our strategies are designed to help with **comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanding vocabulary**. In grammar, we continue to work on **singular, plural, singular possessive and plural possessives** this week. In **Spelling**, we've been working on adding suffixes, and revisiting some concepts we touched on earlier in the year. We're finishing up our third writing unit as we prepare for our assessment on **personal essays**. We have been working on weaving our "big ideas" throughout essays about doing the right thing, accepting change, helping in small ways, and giving people a chance. Our **Math** unit on **measurement** is well under way. We have been learning the standard and metric units of measurement for weight, length, and volume. We'll also be telling time to the nearest minute, and working on solving problems with elapsed time. In **Social Studies**, we have been learning about the early **history** of MI. After break, we will be tackling another 2 units in **Science**. Kids will be learning about **force and motion**.

Christmas gifts/party

Our party will be on Friday, December 20, from 12:50 – 2:00. Let us know if you are willing to help out. *This is "**Crazy Christmas Wear Day**" too, so feel free to dress accordingly. Kids will be rotating through each class doing activities, games, crafts, and having fun.

Remember that you can send in 26 identical inexpensive give-aways (**about \$2 - \$3 total, for all 26 of them**) to drop into a gift bag for each classmate any time. **Everyone will get a gift bag, but bringing give-aways is optional.*

New Volunteer/visitor info

Due to the large number of parents who come on party days and the need to check background status and print tags for each volunteer, the office has implemented a new policy. Parents will no longer be able to just "show up" for a party. We **MUST** have each parent volunteer *signed up and on a list* to be turned into the office **two days** prior to the party. Name tags will then be pre-printed. **Any parent who does not have a pre-printed tag will not be allowed in.** If you are planning on attending the third grade Christmas party on December 20, you must let us know before 4:00 on Tuesday, December 17. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Please let us know ASAP if you are planning on helping out at the party, and haven't already let us know. Thanks.

Reading party/Auction

Kids had a fine time at our November reading party last Wednesday. December reading calendars will be due the day we return from break, and the lunch party will be on Wed, Jan 8. *We will be having another auction early next week. Thanks for your donations! Any gently used toys that become obsolete on Dec. 25 would be perfect for our Winter Auction!*

As always, if you'd ever like to discuss anything happening here at school, please feel free to contact us. **Quincy Elementary (616) 748-4700**
pgoers@zps.org , kdykstra@zps.org or scharon@zps.org
quincythirdgrade.weebly.com

Reminders

- Fri, Dec. 20 – Crazy Christmas Wear day
- Fri, Dec. 20 - third grade Party @ 12:50
- Mon, Dec 23 – vacation until Mon, Jan. 6
- **Mon, Jan. 6 – Dec. Reading Calendars due**
- Wed, Jan. 8 - third grade Dec. reading party
- Fri, Jan 10, DeGraaf trip – 9:30 - noon
- Mon, Jan. 20 - Records Day, No School

Sincerely,

Third Grade Team
Pete Goers, Kelly Dykstra, & Suzanne Charon

