

Dear Families,

We are set to finish work on our last 5 letters, Qq, Uu, Zz, Xx, and Ee. The students are always excited to meet the last letters. Now the real work begins as students will use their letter/sound knowledge when reading and writing. We will begin to work on blending sounds recognizing word chunks (th, sh, ch, wh, ph).

Thank you to all the families that signed up to send in food and items for our Thanksgiving feast and for our holiday celebrations. I will send a reminder note home with your student in the near future. Thanks again for your support.

Our social Studies unit revolves around the concept "long ago." This is a hard concept for 5 and 6 year olds, when last week was a long time ago. I work on this concept mainly through showing differences in people's clothes, houses, and pointing out the many modern conveniences we are used to today. We also talk about family traditions during the holidays.

In Science we begin to talk about the phases of the moon. This week we will learn about the moon. Our specific target for our learning is "the moon, sun, and stars are visible at different times of the day or night." We will also talk about the moon phases and how/why the moon appears to change throughout the month. There is a full moon this week so it is fun to have the students locate the moon each night.

In math we are working on comparing weights and lengths. Students are responsible for using the words "heavier than, lighter than, longer than, and shorter than."

As the weather gets cooler, please keep in mind that our class spends about 30 minutes each day outside during recess. Please make sure they are prepared with hats and gloves. I am training the students to put their gloves in their hats and then their hats down their sleeve at school so they can keep their items together. Also practice with your child how to turn their sleeve right side out. Students will go outside every day until the weather is below the 15 degree mark. Also as the grounds get slushy and snowy they will need boots. Please work with your student on zipping his/her own coats. It is a bit overwhelming to have 23 students look to you for help each time they put their coats on.

As part of Dowds School community outreach, the kindergarten students will be collecting canned and boxed foods (non-perishable) through next Friday. The items collected will be donated to a local food bank to help others during this holiday season. Students grade 1-4 will be going

shopping on Friday to buy items with money they have earned and collected. Taking a group of kindergarteners to a grocery store is not practical so we are doing a can drive within our classrooms. Please send in any non-perishable food items on or before next Friday.

Looking ahead here are some important dates:

Wednesday 11/13 - World Kindness Day - We will be doing many acts of kindness here at school to celebrate this day

Friday 11/15 -

Tuesday 11/26 - interims come home

11/27-12/1 - Thanksgiving break

Friday 12/6 - Picture retakes

Thanks again for all of your support. We will continue to work hard and focus on school work so we finish the second quarter strong. The end of the quarter falls on December 20th. Have a great week.

Anne Finn