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**Much to be thankful for…**

We have been in school for three months now and the students of 2GH have shown great progress. They worked hard on their personal narratives, turned in some very creative turkeys, and finally filled their bean jar! They have come such a long way since September and we are looking forward to their continued growth. We hope parents and students alike had a happy and relaxing Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the winter holidays.

**Curriculum Connections**

Math: In math this month, the class is currently working on different strategies for addition. Some of these strategies are new to students as well as parents, while other ones may be more familiar. Once the students have learned some different strategies, they will be able to choose the one that is most comfortable for them. In addition to our daily lessons we practice Calendar Math, where we talk about money and make different combinations to show the same amount. This is a great skill to practice with your children at home, so the next time you are paying for something or counting change, have your children show you what they know!

Social Studies/Science: We wrapped up our first unit in social studies last month and the students did a great job on the chapter test. They especially enjoyed taking the trip around Midland Park and getting to meet some community workers and leaders up close. This month we turn our attention to science, which is always a very popular subject. The class is learning about Earth’s systems by reading about topics such as slow and fast land changes, watching BrainPop videos, and designing experiments using the Mystery Science program. Some of the mysteries that we have solved include “Why is there sand at the beach?” and “What’s strong enough to make a canyon?”

Reading: In reading the class recently completed our unit on characters. This next unit focuses on nonfiction. The students are reading about a variety of topics, including animals, weather, and famous people. They are learning to identify text features and structures to aid in comprehension. They are also learning to stop at tricky words and go back and reread when something doesn’t make sense. When your children read at home each night, have them pause and talk to you about something they are learning from their reading. Also, please remember to have them fill out and submit those reading logs! We had many attendees at our bagel breakfast and we’d love to have just as many (or more!) at our pizza lunch after the next marking period.

Writing: The class is currently working on informational Question and Answer books. They each chose a topic on which they feel they are “experts,” including cats, Scouts, Ninjago, and Godwin School. They are using graphic organizers to plan out and draft their books using a variety of paper choices. In addition to general information pages, some books may have diagrams, “How-to” directions, fun fact pages, and glossaries. Once the books are completed, we would love to share them with you at a publishing celebration. More info on that to come!

**At home connections**

We have been using iPads in our classroom every week and working on some apps or websites that your children can use at home as well. During centers, when the students are not in guided reading groups or playing a game, they get the chance to use an iPad. Some apps that are especially useful to reinforce skills are IXL, RazKids, and Spelling City. So the next time that your child begs for some iPad time, encourage him or her to use one of these apps.

# Important Dates

## December 7: Spirit Day/Mismatched Shoes Day

## December 7: Winter Wonderland Dance at Highland School

## December 10: Teacher Professional Development (Dismissal at 12:30)

December 17: White Day—wear as much winter white as possible!

December 18: Holiday Lights Day—2nd grade wears red

December 19: Wear a holiday/winter hat

December 19: Grab Bag items due (info on that to come)

December 20: Wear holiday/winter pajamas

December 21: Wear holiday/winter themed clothes

December 21: Holiday Party at 11:30 (Dismissal at 12:30)

December 24-January 1: Winter Break

January 4: Spirit Day/Boot Day

We hope you all have a relaxing winter break and a happy and healthy new year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Greenberg & Mrs. Holmes

Please detach this portion and sign so that we know you received this newsletter! Thanks!

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_