



MACKAY SCHOOL TIMES

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It's hard to believe it's December and there is so much going on all around us. The children are getting ready to celebrate their family traditions this time of year, and as their excitement grows so does the energy in our school.

Coffee with the Principal was very informative. For those who couldn't attend, the presentation can be found on the Mackay School Website under the Principal's page. There was a great discussion on helping the children to identify their feelings and responding to our emotions in appropriate ways.

This holiday season, I urge you to "Unplug."

"Set limits on the amount of time your children watch TV, play screen-based games, instant message, and use the computer recreationally. For young children, less than an hour or so per day is a good starting point. Older kids also need limits on their screen time and the content they watch. All screen time is not equal, and you need to be aware of what your child is watching and with whom they are communicating. Children need ample time to interact with real people, without technology, and to be in the natural world. "

—www.challengesuccess.org

Enjoy your holidays!

Ms. Yoo

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome Winter! We will once again be participating in the Six Flags/Weekly Reader Read to Succeed Program. The program asks students to read for a total of six hours and keep a log of their reading to receive a free ticket to Six Flag's Great Adventure amusement park. Reading logs will be distributed towards the end of November and are due back to Mrs. Zeig by Friday, February 10, 2017.

If the winter weather gets you down this season, snuggle up with your child(ren) and share one of these great read alouds:

- *Best in Snow* by April Pulley Sayre (non-fiction)
- *Little Penguins* by Cynthia Rylant (fiction)
- *Bad Kitty Does Not Like Snow* by Nick Bruel (fiction)
- *Night Before the Snow Day* by Natasha Wing (fiction)
- *Once Upon a Northern Night* by Jean Pendziwol (non-fiction)
- *Snow School* by Sandra Markle (non-fiction)

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!

SHOUT OUT TO OUR HSA

Thank you for

- Organizing the winter Book Fair
- Purchasing more indoor recess games
- Purchasing two more iPads for Kindergarten

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NURSE

Winter Health Reminders

A healthy school environment requires the cooperation and effort of us all working together. During this time I would like to remind everyone that they can help to protect themselves and their families from many of these airborne illnesses. Follow the *Habits for Good Health* listed below recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

Habits for Good Health

- **Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze—throw the tissue away after you use it. If you do not have a tissue, cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow. For more information watch the video@ www.coughsafe.com.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water** especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol based hand cleaner.
- Stay away as much as you can from people who are sick.
- **If you or your child gets the flu, stay home from work or school.** Do not go near other people so that you don't make them sick too.
- **Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs often spread this way.
- **Dress for the weather.** Come to school dressed for the winter. Wear layers of loose fitting clothing. Wear mittens and gloves. Wear a hat. Remember, the air that is trapped inside your clothing, warmed by your body heat, is the best protection from the cold.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK

International Week will be March 6-10. Our focus countries are Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico!

An international assembly will be held on Friday, March 10th. Please consider reaching out to other Mackay families with your same nationality to put together a skit, a dance presentation, a musical number, or any other presentation for students to perform as part of this assembly. The assembly has historically been a highlight of the school year with colorful costumes, lively music and exciting cultural performances. Sign up forms will be available in upcoming newsletters.

ART NEWS

This month will be filled with holiday fun in the art room! Kindergarteners will be making birch trees using thick and thin lines. 1st graders are doing observational drawings of poinsettias in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe. They will also be making 3-D snowmen from Model Magic. 2nd graders will be using line, shape and pattern for candy canes. My favorite holiday project is the radial snowflakes that 4th graders will be making. Students will focus on the element of art: BALANCE. Using shape and line, they will design their own snowflake. The snowflakes will be made out of popsicle sticks and wooden shapes. You will see them hanging up at the holiday concert!

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Stevens

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 3rd GRADE

Our third graders have been working incredibly hard and time has flown by. We've had our first Writing Celebration and now we are immersed in the fiction genre. We are becoming great readers and writers of fiction! In math, we've been working on new multiplication and division strategies: adding and subtracting groups. Science has us studying Weather and Climate. Soon we'll be ready to predict the weather!