

# NEWSLETTER



## It's been a busy year for our 3rd graders!

Dear Room 24 Families,

It's hard to believe that 2011 is coming to an end. With the start of a New Year we are also welcoming the start of a new trimester. The second trimester officially started on December 5th. Report cards were sent home and I happy to share with you that your children have all done a

wonderful job being cooperative and caring classroom citizens.

With these last few weeks of school we have had a lot of fun wrapping up a few of our units. We have also dove into some festive activities such as creating gingerbread houses and making crystalized snowflakes. I have been very proud of all of the hard work your

children are putting in. It goes to show just how much support they are receiving from home. Thank you!

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and get to spend some time with family and friends over the break! Best wishes for 2012!

✧ Ms. Martel



GINGERBREAD HOUSE




DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GIRLS



DIGGING FOR GOLD

## LITERACY

### WRITING



Our wonderful writer's have been very busy! They learned how to use the "minis" and PowerPoint. Everyone finished their "How To's" this week and we had our publishing party. We had so much fun

learning how to build, use, make, and create many things. Make sure you ask your child what they ended up writing about. A bulletin board will be in the hallway displaying their hard work, so stop by and enjoy! In December our lessons on the "Better Answer Sandwich" were focused on the "middle bun" (or body of details) in a written response. Students are learning how to write their details in chronological order using the same transition words (i.e. first, next, then, etc.) that we used in our "How To" writing. When we return in January we will begin to write our legends. Stay tuned!

### Reading

This month we focused on monitoring comprehension using strategies to navigate our way through non-fiction text. We have been



using the non-fiction text features to guide us through our small group instruction. Many of our reading groups have also began reciprocal teaching, which is student lead and teacher guided. The kids have been looking through magazines, cutting out non-fiction text features and adding them to our interactive bulletin board. Before break we will be finishing our read-aloud, The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo. In January we will continue our author study and read one more book by her, The Tiger Rising.



## MATHEMATICS

We completed our interest and theme based unit: "Multiplication and Division Number Stories". All of our classes had a great time discovering how often we use multiplication facts in everyday applications! We took an end-of-unit assessment that was in the form of a project, focusing on the specific animal group that your child studied. Upon our return from break we will start E.D.M. unit 5: "Place Value in Whole Numbers and Decimals". Students will learn to read, write, order, and compare whole numbers and decimals while applying them in real-life contexts.



## SCIENCE/S.S.

We have officially finished our "Let's Rock!" Unit. We wrapped it up by using hard boiled eggs to discuss our earth's structure and dug through chocolate chip cookies to mine out natural resources. Ask your child what they chose to mine - gold, silver, diamonds, etc. They did a wonderful job brainstorming a list of natural resources that our earth provides us. You will see grades for this unit on the Trimester 2 report card. This week we started our Lake Champlain Basin unit. We began by looking at a map of Lake Champlain and labeled the surrounding territory. We are starting to dive into legends and we created our own Native American names. Be sure to ask your kiddo what name they have chosen.



## WORD STUDY/ CURSIVE

Over the past two weeks we did not have "typical" word study sessions. Instead we learned common abbreviations and contractions. We have been engaging in fun interactive lessons to learn these. We have also been practicing a new cursive letter every day. We are currently working on capital letters. With a few more weeks of cursive we will have learned every letter in the alphabet, capital and lower case. I have been very impressed with everyone's cursive skills.

# PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



## IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 2ND:  
NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 16: MARTIN LUTHER  
KING JR. DAY - NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 17-18: SKATING

JANUARY 24: GREEN MOUNTAIN  
SING AT 1:20



## This and That:

- Don't forget to ask your child what they've been doing in Friday "Learning Opportunities" (currently French and Learning Center).
- Please make sure that your child has appropriate outdoor gear for the winter months. Hats, mittens, gloves, boots, snow pants, and jackets are a MUST! When students need to spend time in the nurse's office borrowing any of these items, they lose valuable recess time.
- A special thank you to our room parents for coordinating goodies and helping out with our winter festivities.
- Ms. Overton, a TAP intern working with Mrs. Tiplady, will be heading the Artist in Residence program over the next 5 weeks. The kids will be working on 2 mural pieces after the work of Seurat. In addition to this project we just completed our Integrated Arts project that coincided with our tree unit at the beginning of the school year. The kids created their own tree vessel out of clay and glazed them this past week. Please ask them what wonderful features they added to their vessels.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!