

## News from Room 8 - Week of January 4, 2010

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a safe and wonderful holiday season! As much as I love the holidays, I will admit it feels nice to be back at school in a regular routine.

Here's what's going on during the next few weeks:

### **Everyday Math:**

We are about halfway through unit 5 – “3-D and 2-D shapes”. This unit does contain many new mathematical terms that may be new to some students, however the primary purpose of this unit is to develop classification skills, not to teach vocabulary. The four main areas of focus are:

- To develop the concepts of point and line segment,
- To identify, name , and classify polygons,
- To observe similarities and differences among 3-dimensional shape, and
- To explore symmetry.

We will continue working on addition math facts (“Minute Math”) to gain fluency in this area.

### **Author Study:**

This month we will be reading and discussing the books of Marc Brown. He is most famous for his “Arthur” series, which is beloved by many second graders. We

will incorporate some of the characters in our writing and look at Marc Brown's writing style where there is often a common "problem" that many kids have in life, and a surprise ending. In addition, it is always fun to look at how this illustrator has changed his style since he first began the "Arthur" stories.

### **Theme Study:**

We will finish with France this week and begin our next unit of study – "Weather." Mrs. Foley will finish our French integrated Art project on Friday – water lilies made from clay, fired, and painted. I am anxious to see how this project will look completed; I believe they will be on display in the Learning Center soon. I hear we may have some new contacts in France for the future, so we will continue on a smaller level with this theme throughout the year.

### **Coming Soon:**

I understand there are two important events in January that you may want to put on your calendar:

Miss Wageman is excited to announce the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Potluck Dinner at Summit St. School on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

During the week of January 20 we will have two musicians working with all Summit St. students- with a concert for all on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

I know there will be more information coming home soon, but I did want to remind you of these two dates that will be here before we know it.

**Other:**

Most of us know someone who was recently deployed this past week- I am no exception. The nephew (Dustin) of a friend of mine was deployed on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Dustin is 24 and will end up in Afghanistan. I would like our students to make friendship cards around Valentine's Day, as part of a small community service project. I certainly do not plan to talk about war or politics with the class; I just think this might be a nice thing to do for this young man. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or objections. Of course this project is optional.

Thank you for your help with everything – especially homework!

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sue Macmillan