

# December

December 2011

Dear Parents,

What an exciting time of year! We are all so busy at home and at school. The children really enjoyed completing the gingerbread cookie math graph. Feel free to stop by and see our class graph. It was a fun way to start off the holiday season. Thanks to our room parents for providing the cookies.

One important concept that we are developing this month in math is regrouping. Students are practicing addition of two digit numbers. We have sent home a parent letter from the math book that explains the different methods students have learned.

Example:     65  
          + 37  
          102

This is a difficult concept for many, so please reinforce this at home by writing down two or three problems an evening to help your child achieve mastery.

Also, please note that the character education theme for this month is generosity. Please be sure to reinforce this character trait with your child at home.

**Important Event:** This month we will be having our annual **Holiday Book Exchange**. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to practice giving and sharing with one another. Each second grader should **bring in a gently used book that would be appropriate for either a boy or a girl. On the inside cover, please have your child write a message to the new book owner that says why your child chose the book or what they like about it.** For example, “Dear Friend, I like this book because”... or “Dear Friend, I hope you like this book. I love mysteries.” **The book should be wrapped** and brought to school beginning the week of **December 12**. On **Friday, December 16**, the children will exchange books with their classmates as they enjoy cookies and juice.

We are all looking forward to spending time with our family and friends during winter vacation. Please don't forget to make some time for **reading, writing, and math** (in a special holiday way, of course). This is an ideal time to practice counting coins and making change while shopping for holiday gifts. Students can also benefit from practicing their addition and subtraction facts to 20. Talking about even and odd numbers and counting by twos, fives, and tens are also great review. Writing gift lists and thank you notes are great ways to practice writing skills. Students are excited about their reading skills and may enjoy reading holiday cards and special stories and books. Enjoy this special time together!

We wish you all a joyful holiday season!

The Second Grade Teachers

