

**December 1, 2008**

Hello 4B Parents,

It is exciting to be back in the classroom! It's been wonderful having this time off to spend with my family and I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to do this. I can't believe my newborn is now four months old!



I hope you had restful and fulfilling Thanksgiving break. The next three weeks will be filled with exciting events and activities. This week I will be reviewing classroom procedures, rules, and my expectations with the students. We'll be starting many new units this week, but finishing up some work from before Thanksgiving. This is the First Week of Advent. Report cards will go home on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Each week I will be emailing this newsletter to you in .pdf format (use Adobe Acrobat to read) and posting it on our class website which can be found by going to the HRS website, clicking on Academics, then Classrooms, then 4B. Homework is posted on this site daily along with many other helpful links. If you need to contact me, email is the best option and I will get back to you usually by 5 pm the same day.

I would like to start off by telling you about a project that the fourth grade has done for the past few years.

**Spirit of Giving** – One of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade “Spirit of Giving” projects is collecting new gifts and useful essentials for Puget Sound area homeless children (ages birth to 17) living in shelters. The gifts are organized and stuffed by age group, so it's great to have the students pick out and donate something that they would like to receive him/herself. The gifts should be small stocking stuffer type items. (Ideas listed below) These gifts will be collected and sent to the Coast Guard Family Association where they will be sorted and stuffed on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to deliver the gifts to Pier 36 and to help sort and stuff the stockings on the above dates. This is a wonderful way to extend a charitable donation by getting involved in the organizing and stuffing. Contact me for more information if you're interested in donating your time and effort. Thank you for your participation. Please see the website if you'd like more information. The address is: <http://www.holidaystockings.org>. Here is a link to a story published in the PI last year: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/swift/336538\\_mary24.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/swift/336538_mary24.html)

**Reading** - Students will be doing a book and author study on Chris Van Allsburg. His books include *Jumanji*, *The Polar Express*, and *Zathura*, among others. This week students will read *Jumanji* and over the next three weeks, students will be assigned to read one of his books and do a project on that book. The project will be done in class.

**Math** – This week we'll be identifying time zones, multiplying two digit numbers by one digit numbers, identifying equivalent units of measure, and drawing and reading a circle graph. There will be a test this Friday.

**Religion** – We will begin preparing for the season of Advent, the beginning of the Liturgical Year, which began yesterday. Students will receive a copy of the calendar and learn how it is organized. They will be tested on this in the coming weeks. Tonight's homework is studying for the Beatitude test. There was a review in class today and students should use this study sheet to study for the test.

**Spelling/Language Arts** – The spelling packet is due this Friday. All the information is included on

the packet. One page needs to be done in cursive.

**Social Studies** - This Thursday the students will be taking the combination NE/SE/Midwest State test. Students should carefully review the locations and the abbreviations. It is easy to mix up abbreviations—especially all the “M” states. Thank you for your assistance with the review. Our next sets of states are the last—combination SE and West. We will spend a bit more time studying this region. Looking ahead, the students will be tested on the West and SW states on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Study sheets will be available online, as well as in the student’s files by this Thursday. We will have our fifty state test after Christmas, probably January 12<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>. There are some fun sites to practice the states linked on the 4A webpage.

**Science** – Our next science unit is Electric Circuits. The first sub-concept teaches that a complete circuit is required to light a bulb. This weeks students will be brainstorming what they know about electricity and what they would like to know about electricity. They will also learn how to light a small bulb using a battery and a piece of wire.

**Christmas Program!** - The Christmas show is next Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Students should arrive to our classrooms with their recorders no later than 6:45 pm, but no earlier than 6:30. The show is required for all students and they should wear their Sunday best. Students should be practicing their recorders and song lyrics each night. Thank you.

**Jars** - 4B needs jars! We're doing a project that requires glass jars, but only the smaller kind. For example: small fruit jars, baby food jars, and small, wide mouth jars. Bring in at least one or a couple so we can all share. I'd like to have them by next Monday. Thank you!

**Bowling Party** – Our bowling party is scheduled for Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. Students will be eating lunch earlier so that we can leave for the bowling alley. I'll be sending home a field trip permission slip next Monday. You are welcome to join us for some bowling and chaperoning. We will be walking to the bowling alley, so cars will not be needed. Thank you!

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*Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children is an all-volunteer non-profit charity. Since 1996 volunteers have sewed and delivered holiday stockings filled with new small gifts to children living in shelters in the Puget Sound area during the holiday season. Each stocking will be filled with assorted age appropriate new items such as socks, toys, games, books, toiletries, hygiene items and other small gifts. Each year Holiday Stockings goal is to fill 2000 holiday stockings for the children in homeless shelters.*

*Stocking ideas - Toys, socks, bubbles, sealed cookies, baby rattles, bibs, notebooks, markers, play clay, stickers, yo-yos, cologne, crayons, coloring books, gloves, knitted hats, mints, play jewelry, playing cards, deodorant, chap sticks, small toys (no play guns or knives please), games, hacky-sac balls, watches, combs, trading cards, hair clips, yo-yo's, toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste.*

*[www.holidaystockings.org](http://www.holidaystockings.org)*

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