

# Parent's Newsletter



## DECEMBER FOR MANY THINGS!

December! For snow!  
December! For fun!  
And also December  
To play and to run.

Up the high hills  
All shining with snow!  
Down on our sleds  
How swiftly we'll go!

December! For shouting!  
December! For joy!  
It's a month that is perfect  
For each girl and boy.

By Lenore Hetrick





### Message from Assistant Principal Ms. Monnes

Dear families,

The holiday season gives us an opportunity to reflect upon how thankful we are for our school community and all those individuals who support our children's education and social and emotional wellbeing. Our daily obligations and distractions often keep us busy that we sometimes forget to express our feelings with those individuals who mean the most to us! With this in mind, I would like to wish the families and friends of P.S. 220 a wonderful, safe and special holiday season!

We are looking forward to this year's Holiday Concert taking place on **Thursday, December 19th**! Our doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for an evening of song reflective of this time of year. Students in our upper grades have been preparing for this memorable event by rehearsing their songs and taking center stage. We are so very lucky as a school community to celebrate the many diverse cultures that make P.S. 220 so very special. We look forward to a great evening and a time where we can all come together and usher in the holiday season!

Last month, our Grade 5 students competed in the P.S. 220 Annual Spelling BEE! We are excited to send our three final winners to the Queens Competition. During the Month of December, students in **grades K-4** will begin to compete in the Annual Spelling BEE! The Spelling BEE will take place in the auditorium where students participate with their grade level peers. Students have been studying their word lists and preparing for their class and grade competition. They are ready for the stage!

**The Scholastic Book Fair** is returning to P.S. 220 during the month of December! Children will have the opportunity to visit the fair and purchase a variety of books. The Scholastic Book Fair is one way we can support your children as they are developing the skills and strategies to become lifelong readers.

We are so fortunate in P.S. 220 to have the opportunity to share this season together! As we all celebrate holidays and traditions with our loved ones, the friends and family of P.S. 220 also recognizes the importance of giving back to the community and having an impact on the lives of others. New York Cares Coat Drive is one way in which we can trust that our community members have coats to wear this winter! Help ensure our families are ready for winter by donating a coat or jacket! Beginning in December, P.S. 220 will host the local "Socks in the Box" donation drive. All students are encouraged to donate a fresh pair of socks that will be donated to a local shelter!

The entire school community thanks you for volunteering your time by chaperoning your child's class on their special trips, running the holiday boutique, coming out for special assemblies and most of all for being part of our school. We look forward to future volunteering opportunities where you can continue to support your child and the P.S. 220 School Community. On behalf of Ms. Pizarro, Ms. Morales and myself, we wish you and your loved ones a healthy, happy new year!





















Hoping your home is bright with love and peace during this holiday season and throughout New Year!

Best wishes,  
Hope Monnes  
Assistant Principal





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3 8:30am  <b>PARENT MEETING</b>	4 Say "Cheese"  <b>PHOTO relax DAY</b>	5	6 6:30pm  <b>FAMILY FUN DAY</b>	7
8	9 See schedule  <b>BOOK FAIRS</b>	10 At 2:40pm  <b>PARENT MEETING</b>	11 See schedule  <b>BOOK FAIRS</b>	12	13 See schedule  <b>BOOK FAIRS</b>	14 8:30am  <b>FAMILY FUN DAY</b>
15	16 8:30am Family Winter  <b>Art and Craft</b>	17 Kindergarten Family Event  <b>GINGERBREAD HOUSE</b>	18	19 6:30pm  <b>Winter Concert</b>	20	21
22	23  <b>Winter Break!</b>	24  <b>Winter Break!</b>	25  <b>Winter Break!</b>	26  <b>Winter Break!</b>	27  <b>Winter Break!</b>	28
29	30  <b>Winter Break!</b>	31  <b>Winter Break!</b>				



Every **Tuesday** you can meet with your child's teachers from **2:40pm-3:20pm** please make an appointment through REMIND, EMAIL or send a note with your child.





Our unit of study for December is Where We Live. Our goals are for students to understand that homes are the places where people and animals live. Animals and people have many different types of homes that they can make.

Some animals live with people. In Building Blocks students will be recognizing, naming and sorting shapes. Students will match congruent shapes by memory. They will also produce small number of actions.

They will also be counting and comparing small numbers and connecting counting to simple addition.

Standards: PK.AL.5, PK.SED.4, PK.CLL.1, PK.CLL.4, PK.CLL.5, PK.CLL.6, PK.CLL.9, PK.CKW.1, PK.CKW.2, PK.CKW.3, PK.CKW.5

### Important Dates

December 18th- Holiday Celebration

December 23rd-January 1st -School closed; Winter Recess

January 2nd- Classes resume



December Birthdays

Ariella-24th

Elan-29<sup>th</sup>



# Kindergarten

Thank you to all the parents who attended parent teacher conferences! It was also a pleasure having you attend our Thanksgiving Day Feast.

Your child has been receiving breakfast every day in the classroom. Please make sure you continue to practice sight word list A every night. They should also be reading the books in their baggies every night.

In November your child learned many new strategies to help them read everything in the classroom and beyond. In December we will begin our Super Power unit. Your child will start thinking about what happens in their books (making predictions) by looking at the cover and pictures in their book. Our goal in reading is for students to use pictures and words to help them become better readers.

**Aligned to CCSS: R.F.K.4 read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.**

In November our writing unit was called: Show and Tell. Your child was observing objects that they brought in and also wrote about special places they like to visit. In December our writing unit is called Writing for Readers. Your child will be using the word wall, learning about punctuation and capital letters to help their writing become more readable.

Our goal in writing is for students to work on sounding out and stretching their words to write a small focused story. **Aligned to CCSS: W.K.2.** Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

In November our math unit was: Represent, Count, and write Numbers 6-9. In December our math unit is Represent and Compare numbers to 10. Your child will learn to count forward from a given number and compare two numbers.

Our goal in math is for students to show and compare numbers to 10. **Aligned to CCSS: CC.K.CC.2** Count forward beginning from a given number within the known sequence (instead of having to begin at 1).

In November our science unit was called Animals and Plants. We talked about how plants change and the different parts of a plants. In December our science unit is also called: Plants and Animals. We will also do experiments.

**Aligned to CCSS: K.P.2.1** Classify objects by observable physical properties (including size, color, shape, texture, weight and flexibility).

In November our social studies unit was called: Self and Others. We talked about different cultures and beliefs. In December we will continue with the same unit. Your child will also learn the differences between needs and wants. Our goal in social studies is for students to understand how people can be alike and different. **Aligned to CCSS: 4.1.A** All people have needs (food, clothing, shelter) and wants (toys, games, treats).

Looking Forward:

We will be making gingerbread houses out of candy. You will receive a letter inviting you to come and help your child make their gingerbread house.

### **Parent Communication:**

All Kindergarten teachers are available to meet with you on any Tuesday at 2:40 during the school year. If you would like to schedule a conference please write a note or email your child's teacher in advance.





## Highlights from November...

1st graders worked hard very hard solving tricky words in their books. We were very excited to see them all become official word detectives. They really earned their badges! PLEASE work on sight words daily!! Be on the look out for patters to help solve tricky words like vowel teams, blends and digraphs.

**In writing**, we wrote How-To-Books. We learned how to label and write with precise words, adding sequence words. We continue to be on the look out for adding capitals, punctuation and using our strategies to spell words.

**In math**, we are wrapping up learning different addition strategies to help us find the sum in word problems. Continue to work on counting on, doubles +1, doubles -1, making a ten, and double facts.

A special thank you to all the families who attended Student Led-Teacher Conferences – It was wonderful meeting with all of you!

## Upcoming Events...

In reading workshop, our goal is to learn new information from all our nonfiction books. We will study nonfiction text features

We are very excited for writing workshop. Our goal is to teach others by writing information books. We will be using books and prior knowledge to teach others about things. We will use what we learn about the author in our reading workshop to help us with our writing! Please login to myon.com for tons of nonfiction books!

**In math**, our goal is to become experts with subtraction strategies.

In Social Studies, we will continue to learn about families. We are excited to learn about our customs and celebrations and how they are similar and different to other families!

**In Science**, we are going to be investigating how Spruce the Sea Turtle and her offspring can survive in the ocean. Students will make physical models and write explanations to show what they learned about structure and function of animal defenses.

Common Core State Standards: ELA: SL.1.1,1.2,1.3. ELA.RI 1.3. W.1.2,1.3,1.5,1.6,1.7,1.8. Math 1.OA.5,1.OA.4,1.OA.6,1.OA.1

## Parent Involvement:

All first grade teachers are available to meet every Tuesday at 2:45p.m. Please let us know in advance if you would like to meet.

We wish all of you a Happy & Peaceful New Year!



# 2nd GRADE

Your children have really been learning a lot in second grade. Please remember to check their homework folders on a daily basis. Make sure to empty out all of the important school notices. December is a season for giving gifts. The best gift you can give your child is to be able to read with them as often as possible. If they see reading is important to you, it will also become important to them. Remember to ask them questions as they read to check how well they understand their stories. Ask them who, what, why, where, and when questions as they read.

## **Math Topic 5: Subtract Within 100 Using Strategies**

Common Core State Standards: CCLS- 2.NBT.B.5, 2.NBT.9, 2.OA.a.1

Goal: Students will fluently add and subtract within 100 using strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.

## **Topic 6: Subtract Within 100 Using Strategies**

Common Core Standards: 2.NBT.B.5, 2.NBT.B.6, 2.NBT.B.9, 2.OA.b.2, 2.OA.a.1

Goal: Students will fluently add and subtract within 100 using strategies based on place value, properties of operation, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.

## **Reading Unit 2 Continued: Becoming Experts- Reading Non Fiction**

Common Core Standards- CC.L.S. RI.2.1, RI.2.2, RI.2.3, RI.2.9, RF.2.3

Goal- Students will be able to understand what information books have to teach. Students will also be able to use nonfiction book features to help understand and make deeper connections.

## **Writing Unit 2 Continued- Informational writing**

Common Core Standards- CC.L.S; RL.1, RL.7, RL.8, W.2, W.4, W.5, W.7, W.8

Goal- Students will be able to compile information about a topic and write multiple informational books independently. Students will be able to use nonfiction features in their books. They will use mentor texts to help them elaborate and expand on their writing.

## **Science Unit 2 – Properties of Materials**

Common Core Standards- 2-PS1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4

Goals: Students will design a glue mixture that is better than what the school uses now.

## **Social Studies Unit 2- New York City Over Time**

Common Core Standards: CC. 3.2a, 3.1d, 3.1e, 4.1e, 1.1, 1.1a, 1.2, 1.2a 1.3a, 1.3b, 1.4, 1.4b 2.2d, 3.1d

Goal: Students will begin to look at how NYC has changed over time. They will learn that NYC is an urban community with special features and they will learn about those features. They will begin to understand what has made NYC one of the largest cities in the world.

## **Parent Meetings**

The 2nd Grade team will be available on Tuesdays from 2:40-3:20 if you would like to make an appointment to meet with one of us. We look forward to fostering a great relationship and keeping the lines of communication open!

## **Important Information**

Please ensure that your child is reading for 20 minutes every night and logging, completing all reading and journal responses. All students should be logging on to MYON and Think Central. If you need to learn your child's password, contact his/her teacher.

Have a healthy and safe holiday!



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

## Math

Topic 5 - Connect Area to Multiplication

Topic 6 - Connect Area to Multiplication and Addition

**Math Goal:** In topic 5, students will learn to apply strategies to achieve fluency with multiplication and division facts within 100. In topic 6, students will learn about the concept of area and how it relates to multiplication and addition.

Common Core Standards: CC 3.OA.7a, CC 3.OA.7 b, CC 3.OA.9, CC 3 MD 5a, CC 3 MD 5b, CC 3.MD.6

**Writing:** In December, students are writing informational texts on a topic they feel they are an expert of.

Writing Goal: Students will be working to organize their informational writing and develop their topic with facts, definitions, and details.

Writing Standards: W.3.,a, W.3.2b, W3.2c, W3.2D

**Reading:** In December students are reading non-fiction.

Reading Goal: Students will work on finding and summarizing the main idea and supporting it with key details. They will also use text features to support what they are learning.

Reading Standards: RI3.1, RI3.2, RI3.3, RI3.5

**Social Studies:** In December, students are learning about the country, geography, and culture of China.

Social Studies Goal: This is our first unit where students begin to examine different countries around the world. They will interpret pictures and texts. They will make connections to how China's culture, geography, and history shapes its community.

Social Studies Standards: 3.2a & b; 3.3a & b; 3.4a & b; 3.5a & b, 3.9a & b

## Third Grade Extras:

If you can take your child to the library, please help them to pick out non-fiction books around a topic that interests them. The 3rd grade will be going to The Voelker Orth Museum to learn about plant life, the water cycle, and build terrariums.

Each class will go on a different day: Class 302 will go 12/11, class 301 will go 12/13, class 331 will go on 12/10, and class 321 will be going 12/12.

As always, please know that we are available on Tuesday afternoons 2:40-3:20pm to meet with you.

Have a great Holiday!





# 4TH GRADE

**1.Math:** Students will begin working using strategies and properties to divide. They will also be working on solving multi-step equations using different operations.

Goals: By the end of the unit, students will be able to divide using a variety of different strategies. In Topic 6: Use Operations with Whole Numbers to Solve Problems the students need to understand how to read through problems, understand what is being asked of them, and clearly show their work.

Standards: CC.4.OA.1, O.A.2, O.A.3, M.P.1, M.P.4, M.P.7.

**2.Reading:** In December, students will begin our unit study "Detail and Synthesis: Close Reading of Fiction." They are practicing close reading skills with partners in fiction books.

Goals: By the end of the unit, the goal is for students to grow deeper ideas about the characters and themes in their books. They will practice skills to synthesize, connect, analyze, compare & contrast characters within & across texts, and evaluate big ideas & themes.

Standards: RF.4.3, RF.4.3A, RF.4.4A, RF.4.4B, 4.RL.3

**3.Writing:** Students will be analyzing characters, settings and dialogue to grow theories and write Literary Essays.

Goals: By the end of the unit, students will be able to use everything they know about reading fiction to guide them as they write and respond to literature. Students will be able to write a clear, well-organized essay which supports their thesis/claim with reasons and text evidence.

Standards: W.4.3, W.4.4, W.4.5, W.4.8, W.4.9a, W.4.10, RL.4.1, RL.4.3, RL.4.10

**4.Social Studies:** Students will begin to study about the Colonial and Revolutionary Periods.

Goals: By the end of the unit students will be able to identify the reasons for exploration and factors that contributed to the development of the colonial regions. They will recognize the sequence of events that led to the colonies declaring independence from Great Britain. They will learn about specific individuals, battles, and resources that shaped the outcome of the American Revolution.

Standards: RI.4.1, RI.4.3, RI.4.4, RI.4.7, RI.4.9, 4.3a, 4.3b, 4.3c, 4.3d

## **Some Important Dates:**

◊Holiday Concert: December 19th at 6:30

◊Winter Break: December 23th to January 1st. Come back to school 1/2/20



## Math: Topic 6 – Use Models and Strategies to Divide Decimals

Goal: By the end of the unit students will deepen their understanding of place value in decimals. Students will use models and strategies to divide numbers with decimals.

Standards: 5.NBT.B.7- Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.

## Reading: Unit 3 – Author Study: Reading Like a Fan

In this unit, students will tackle more complex texts and move up the levels of text difficulty, as well as develop social communities to motivate students to become lifelong readers.

Reading Goal: Students will identify one author that really speaks to them and then become an expert on everything that the author has written.

Standards: RL.5.1-6

## Writing: Unit 3: Literary Essay- Opening Texts & Seeing More

In this unit, students will be writing multiple opinion pieces and essays on a variety of text that support a point of view. These essays will include reasons that support their thesis and text evidence.

Writing Goal: Students will grow ideas central to a text and use evidence to support a claim.

Standards: W.5.1, W.5.5

## Social Studies: Unit 3: Comparative Case Study of Western Hemisphere Cultures

In this unit, students will explore countries of the Western Hemisphere including Mexico, the United States, the Dominican Republic, and Canada.

Social Studies Goal: Students will be able to compare and contrast aspects of culture in countries located in the Western Hemisphere.

Standards: RI.5.1-6

## Science: Unit 2: Modeling Matter

Students are then challenged to solve two problems: One problem requires them to separate a mixture, and the other problem requires them to make unmixable substances mix. Students are challenged to use the particulate model of matter to explain their work to the president of the company.

Science Goal: By the end of the unit, students will be able to apply the understanding to explain how the properties of materials are related to the properties of the nanoparticles that make up those materials.

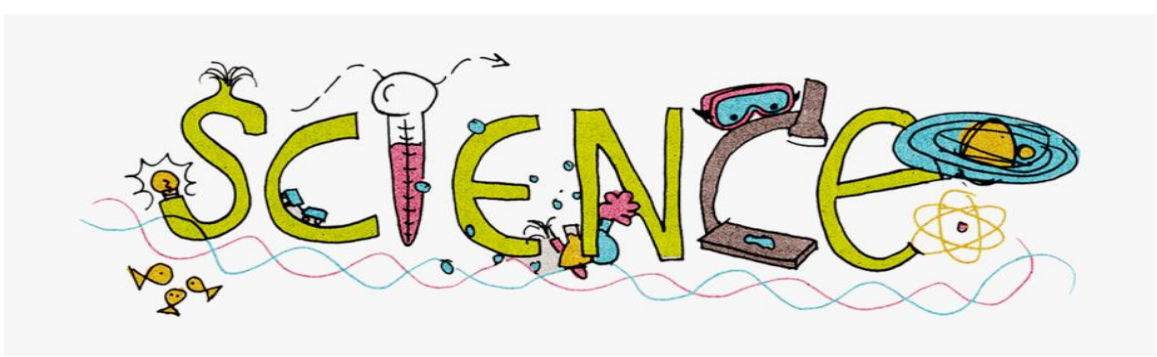
Standards: 5.ESS1-1-2 and 5.PS2-1

## **Important Dates: Winter Recess December 23-Jan 1**

**Parent Communication:** The 5th Grade Teachers are available every Tuesday from 2:40-3:10

Have a Wonderful Winter Break & Health and Happiness into The New Year





### **Third Graders will begin Unit 2 Inheritance and Traits**

Each Amplify unit begins with a Phenomenon

In this unit we are taking on the role of wildlife biologists and exploring why a wolf at Graystone National Park does not have the same fur color as the rest of its pack.

Performance Expectation

3-LS3-1. Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organism

### **Fourth Graders will begin Unit 2 Vision and Light**

In this unit we are taking on the role of conservation biologists; figure out why a population of Tokay geckos has decreased since the installation of new highway lights in the rain forest. They will figure out why an increase in light in the geckos' habitat is affecting the population.

Performance Expectation

4-LS1-2. Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brains, and respond to the information in different way.

### **Fifth Graders will continue Unit 2 Modeling Matter**

In the role of food scientists working for Good Food Production, Inc., students learn that all matter is made of particles too small to see and that each different substance is made of particles (molecules) that are unique. They will separate a mixture and create an unmixable substance mix.

Performance Expectation

5-PS1-1. Develop a model to describe that matter is made of particles too small to be seen.

We will continue with our Healthy Eating Habits from Green Beetz and learn the history of our food.

Have a Wonderful Winter Break  
Health and Happiness into The New Year





Dear parents,  
As the year draws to a close and we reflect on our growth as artists (and people) it is important to appreciate our successes and learn from our failures. With that in mind all students will be taking some time to look at their artwork and learn different ways to talk about their strong points as well as where they can push themselves farther next year.

Lower grades will be finishing weaving and assessing their artwork. They will also be starting a unit on card making.

Upper grades will be learning new ways to assess and critique their artwork. Students will focus on using vocabulary connected with each lesson to discuss their projects. We will also be finishing up any old projects so we can start off fresh in the New Year.

As always if you need to contact me I can be reached by email at [DAronow@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:DAronow@schools.nyc.gov)

## Music



Singing and music play an important role in our culture. At home, music can become part of our family cultures—a natural part of our everyday experiences. But academic achievement isn't the only benefit of music education and exposure. Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy.

Our Lower grades k to 2

Singing and playing mallet and percussion instruments for seasonal tunes.

Our Upper grades 3 to 5th

Our students are practicing for their Winter Concert for the Upper grades. They are learning Rocking into the winter concert December 19

Have a Wonderful Winter Break  
Health and Happiness into The New Year





Hello from ENL!

### Title III After School Programs

#### Grades 1 & 2 program will end on Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Parents, Guardians, and families are invited to our end of program celebration. Please join us on December 18, 2019 to celebrate your child's achievement in our Title III program. We look forward to seeing you there!

Grades 3, 4 & 5 Title III program will begin on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Letters describing dates and times will be coming out soon. Look for these letters which will be sent home with your child. Sign the permission slip tear off and return to your child's teacher.

### FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Please join us on Saturday, December 14, 2019 for FAMILY LITERACY DAY. You and your family are invited to participate in a day of Language and Literacy activities and games. Look for further information coming your way; check your child's homework folder for details. We look forward to seeing you there for a day of learning and fun!

Thank you to all parents and guardians who attended our ENL parent workshops. Continue to use the strategies you learned in order to help your child succeed in gaining English language proficiency.

Useful websites:

[starfall.com](http://starfall.com)

[myon.com](http://myon.com)

[colorincolorado.org](http://colorincolorado.org)

ENL Team

Ms. Martinez

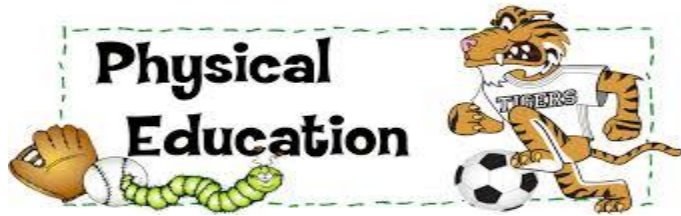
Ms. Gerber

Ms. Costa

Have a Wonderful Winter Break  
Health and Happiness into The New Year







When the weather turns cold and it gets dark earlier, keeping kids active can take some creativity. Here are some ideas for keeping your family moving all winter long.

◊Dance Your Heart Out! Encourage your child to pick the music, crank it up and then dance away! March, box step, bounce, spin, shake it...all great ways to burn calories.

◊Take it Outside. If there is snow, get the whole family outside to do some sledding, build snow forts and throw snowballs, build a snow sculpture – anything that keeps the kids moving and having fun.

◊Visit the Library. Libraries are a great resource for children's fitness videos and books, which you can use to teach your child about indoor exercises. Best of all, it's free!

◊Find Middle Ground. If it's impossible to pry kids away from the TV, encourage them to do jumping jacks, sit-ups, push-ups and stretches during commercial breaks.

Healthy Hint: Just some small changes in behavior, such as walking up the stairs or to the store and eliminating the extra junk food snack, can lead to a healthier life. As you spend the holidays with family and friends, share your ideas on how you plan to make 2020 a happy and healthy year for you and your family.

Kindergarten students will be learning different parts of the body and different movements this month. Our first and second graders are learning simple games and following directions.

Third graders should be showing off their push-up and sit-up skills. The fourth and fifth grade students are still working hard to reach their goals set for the Fitnessgram Test coming up in the new year. The upper grade students should be working towards their goals at home also. Looking ahead: Get ready for the 2020 Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser event!!!!

Please remember to send your child to school with sneakers and sweatpants on their assigned gym day. Check with your child's teacher to find out what day the class has gym. Our PS 220 t-shirts and sweatpants are available year-round. Please see our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Torres if you would like to make a purchase.

If you would like to request a meeting, we are available on Tuesday between 2:40pm and 3:20 pm. Please contact me through

Email: [adewhirst2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:adewhirst2@schools.nyc.gov), or [Msavino@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Msavino@schools.nyc.gov) 1-718-592-3030

Have a Wonderful Winter Break  
Health and Happiness into The New Year





## Technology by Mr.Gross

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

— Arthur C. Clarke, Profiles of the Future: An Inquiry Into the Limits of the Possible

We are well into the school year and we're looking forward to continuing the work we have begun in Technology.

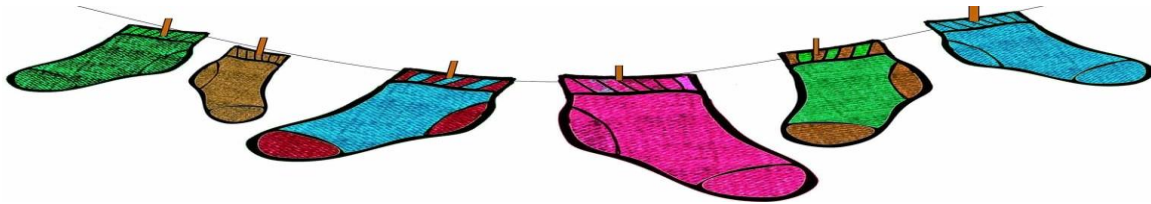
Technology this month:

Our early grade students (PK-K) are continuing their work on improving their keyboarding skills and becoming more familiarized with learning how to navigate on the computer from one application to another.

Our lower elementary students (1-3) are immersed in creating their own original travel brochures. They are using Microsoft publisher to create the brochures.

Meanwhile, our upper grade students (4-5) have started their research projects and are currently.

# Service Learning



Collecting Socks for families  
December 2-9