



Lighthouse School®
200 Cluster Newsletter
December 2009

Notes from the Homeroom:

December signals the beginning of a month filled with much anticipation. For some, it is a magical wonderful season. For others, this is a difficult time of the year. Within the 200 Cluster, astonishing achievements have been made in the homerooms as the children learned to express what they appreciated in other individuals. Learning to respect the values of others was a challenging outcome. Taking advantage of this glorious season has given the children an opportunity to create holiday decorations on windows, doors, bulletin boards and walls in celebration of the human spirit. Home-room teachers, speech therapists and occupational therapists encouraged children to brainstorm, create and share embellished ornaments, posters and cards through lessons discussing school traditions vs. home traditions - how they are the same and how they are different. As a result, to take a holiday stroll through the 200 Cluster is an amazing adventure as you encounter the diverse window displays and hear the joyous sounds of children working together to create a common goal.

Academically through the guidance of Ms. Hohenberger, 200 Cluster students learned to apply math concepts such as addition, subtraction and even lines and rays to their holiday shopping and seasonal crafts. This motivating fun experience engaged the students' interest while enhancing their mathematical skills.

Mrs. Barmash continued to further develop student skill levels through the review of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, graphing and word problems, as well as assisting the students to learn and recognize key words for their application.

Ms. Pease's English classes enjoyed mastering mysteries, illusion and detective work by working in small teams to develop theories and find clues to support their ideas.

In Science with Ms. Giblin, water cycles and the weather were the basis for scientific air experiments and making water cycle wheels .

History with Ms. Young encouraged map skill development while learning to locate the early settlements in Massachusetts. Students were also given the opportunity to originate and develop plans for a new settlement. This activity enlisted the students' interest as they learned to compare the past with the present.

Throughout the month students have been saving tokens for "wise choices" and encouraged to save for our "Holiday Gift Shop." Those who participated saved the necessary 500 tokens to purchase gifts. The chatter and the thrill of excitement while the students bought their gifts to give to others would put a smile on anyone's face. Hope and happiness prevailed as the children returned to their classrooms to wrap their treasures.

In conclusion, it is our sincere wish that you and yours have the very best holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Peace and love from the 200 Cluster.