

6th Grade News

December 2009

Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School for Students): December 11

Christmas Break (No School) – Monday, December 21 through Friday, January 8

December Birthdays – 15-Hunter Ashley, 18-Ana Isabel Hernandez, and 20-Marcos Fernandez

- Math:** The students just finished Unit 3 of the Sixth Grade Everyday Math Program, where we focused on patterns, formulas and algebraic expressions. We are now working on Unit 4, which centers on fractions, decimals and percents.
- Reading:** Our guided reading groups are finishing up with their different novels and some groups have begun to work on their final projects for the books. In these projects, students can choose to write and perform a play based on key scenes from the book or write a prequel, sequel or new ending to the book they read. In addition to these projects, students will be writing in-class essays on theme and character development. After the Holiday Break, we will be starting a new shared reading book to go along with our Space and Astronomy theme: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle.
- Writing:** The final copies of students' short stories are before the Holiday Break. Students are working diligently on revising, editing, typing and publishing their pieces. In class, we are focusing our revisions around the 6+1 Writing Traits Program (the six traits being Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Conventions). Students are in the process of self-evaluating their writing based on these traits, which I will also be using when I formally evaluate the final copies of their short stories.
- Theme:** The students will finish our second Theme study on December 1, when they take their Nervous System test. On December 2, we will begin our third Theme of the year: Space and Astronomy. Before Christmas, students will explore the history of astronomy and conceptions about space from ancient times up until present day. After the vacation, we will be studying the planets and the solar system.

I hope all is well with you and your families this December. I look forward to meeting with you all on December 11th for Parent/Teacher Conferences. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please write me in the communication notebooks or feel free to email me.

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- Lindsay