

# Happy New Year!!!

## Welcome back to Kindergarten!

Welcome back as we celebrate Epiphany. The time when the wise men surrounded baby Jesus with gifts. "Follow the Star"... will be our theme this week. One of my favourite quotes that I hear around this season gets me every time... "ise men still seek him". It's such a simple message but a thought provoking one.

I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing break. I know I did! My husband and I spent Christmas Eve with his family at Grandma Shirley's house. We had a lot of fun opening gifts from our secret gift exchange. On Christmas Day, we spent the afternoon toboganing down a really big hill with our family in Barrhead! Mr. Drozd had to go back to work on Boxing Day so I enjoyed having time to relax at home and eat all of the chocolates everyone gave me for Christmas.

We decided to visit my sister and her family for New Year's Eve. They live in Grimshaw, AB (that's close to Peace River). When we arrived at my sister's house, she told me that my aunt and uncle were coming to visit from Fort McMurry, SURPRISE! It was a great weekend but the best part of the whole weekend was when I got to meet my new little nieces, Ella and Zoe! They were born in November and they are the cutest little babies I have ever seen! (Well, except for all of you guys of course! Those baby pictures you have been using for your VIP posters have been so sweet!)

Well, here I am back at the school. I am getting ready for January. If you think we have had a busy year so far, you are right! But hold on to your hats, we are just getting started!!! Next up.... PENGUINS!!!

**Keep reading below to find some important information....**

## Supplies

After doing an inventory over the Christmas break, it has come to our attention that we are in need of a few supplies. I am asking for all families to send along the following to school, as soon as conveniently possible:

**1 box of tissues**

**1 container of wet wipes**

**1 box of ziplock type bags. (sandwich size or larger, we are in need of both kinds)**

Also, if you regularly buy 'YOP', please save a couple of your containers and send those in. We will be using them for an art project later in the year.

## Penguin Day

We have a tentative date set for our Theme Day. Please mark your calendars

and consider volunteering for our penguin day. We will have fun filled activities and centres set up in our classrooms, outdoors (weather permitting) and possibly in the gymnasium as well. We encourage all students to wear only black and white on this day to keep with our Penguin theme. More details will follow later in the month. Tentative dates for penguin day are:

**M/W: Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

**T/T: Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

## **Home Reading**

Beginning in January, we will be sending **Home Reading Bags**. The bag will have your child's name on it and it will contain a book. **Please take time each night to read the book with your child.** This is your child's homework. First, look at the pictures. Then read the words to your child or read the words together. Finally, have your child read the book to you. Some books will have no words. It is up to your child to decide what the story is. As the weeks pass, we will send home higher book levels as your child needs them and as they become available to us. Most Kinders will be taking home a level 0 to start. Our goal is to read a level 3 by June. A Student reading a level 2 or 3 in September of Grade One, is reading at grade level. **Please return the home reading book and home reading bag at least once per week. We require a replacement fee for lost/unreturned books.**

You will also find **popcorn words on flash cards** in your child's home folder. These will stay home. They are for you and your child to practice together. Start with 2 or 3 of the easiest words and once those are mastered, add 2 or 3 new words to your pile. While it is not necessary for your child to know all of the popcorn words in kindergarten, they are great for practicing over the summer. Students who can read most of the "Dolch Pre-Primer" words (popcorn words) in September of Grade One, are reading at or above grade level.

## **Friendship Tea**

We will be holding our annual Kindergarten Friendship Tea on February 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>. In ECS we try to foster relationships among students within our class and with children from our other kinder classes. Early in February, you will receive a note asking about your child's snack preferences. We ask that you fill out the form with your child and return it to school promptly. We will then pair your child up with a child from one of our other kinder classes. They will be friendship tea buddies and will bring snacks for each other and will sit together on our friendship tea day. The special snack you bring on friendship tea day will not be for you. It will be for your buddy. More information will be sent home regarding this special day as it draws nearer.

## **Growth Spurt Alert!**

Please check your child's indoor shoes to make sure they are still fitting properly and that they are in good repair. If you need to replace the indoor shoes, please remember to send along **non-marking, Velcro or slip-on runners**. No

laces please! Also check that your child still has a spare change of clothing in his or her locker and that the clothes still fit! Clothes must be labeled.

This term we will be encouraging all of our students to be independent with their outside clothes. Help them by making sure their coats have working zippers and that their boots are not too difficult to put on. We have been lucky with our winter weather so far this year, but remember, even on a nice day, snow-pants are a must for safer, outdoor, winter fun! The children are happier when they are warm while they are outside!!!

### **Scholastic Book Orders**

I will be sending home book orders right away, if you would like to purchase books from scholastic... Please, send a cheque. The company does not accept cash for the orders. If you make multiple orders, eg... one book from ELF and one from SeeSaw, you can combine the total price of the two orders on the one cheque.

### **Kindergarten Class T-Shirts**

I will also be sending home order forms for kindergarten class t-shirts this month. They will be ordered at the end of January and usually take only a couple of weeks to arrive. The company is based out of Ontario and we have been ordering kindergarten shirts for a number of years now. They have t-shirts, hoodies and I believe they also have pajama pants. If you would like to order clothing, complete the order form and send a cheque made payable to our school "St. Joseph Elementary". If you would like to see a sample of the kinder t-shirt, I have one (girls size xs) from a previous year for you to take a look.

### **That's all folks!**

Keep checking the home folder for other important newsletters and notes as they become available!

Sonia Drozd