

# Leo's Family Newsletter

December 20th, 2019



## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 21st- Sunday January 5th**  
NO SCHOOL-Winter Break

**Monday, January 6th**  
Classes resume

**Monday, January 20th**  
NO SCHOOL-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Friday, January 24th**  
End of 2nd quarter

**Monday, January 27th**  
NO SCHOOL- teacher planning/grading day  
\*Report cards will be mailed home

## Connect to Your Kid

*Do you have a book club book to finish over break? Which book?*

*What did you learn about the winter solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas in Iceland, and Kwanzaa?*

*What are some needs you have or things you are looking forward to over winter break?*



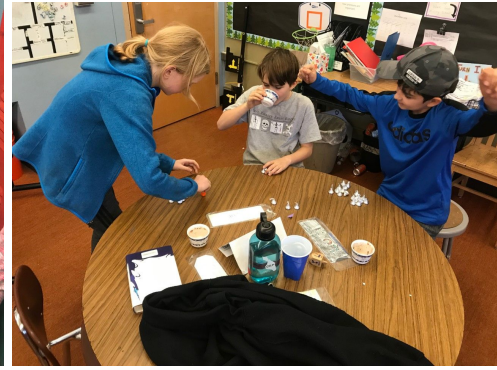
*Happy Winter Solstice  
from Moonie, Lisbeth,  
& Leo!*

# Announcements

- **Winter Break Homework:** There is no winter break homework packet! However, some students still have to finish their book clubs book, due on Monday, January 6th. Check in if this is true for your student. I encouraged students to read 40 minutes or more each day and to check out a new online math resource, [Prodigy](#). Our clas code for Prodigy is **A26C01**.
- **Lockers:** We cleaned out our lockers (coats, old lunches, papers, etc.) today, so your child will be arriving home with a load of stuff.
- **Riparian Festival Projects:** Congratulations on all 28/28 of our students creating amazing Riparian Fest Projects. Students did a lot of self reflection using a checklist and I also wrote feedback for them.
- **Weather Gear:** During break, please take time to create an awesome, waterproof, and warm locker situation for your child. Can you pack a raincoat, waterproof shoes/boots, umbrella (optional), gloves, and anything else your child needs to stay dry and warm during our daily outside recess time? Having a waterproof pair of shoes can be handy to change into as we head into rainy season.
- **Candy & Snacks:** Starting after break, I am implementing a no candy at school policy. This is because some students store it in their lockers then pass it out to certain people, both losing class time and also self selecting who gets treats. Please also check the snack schedule to see if it's your 2 days. Snack hasn't been working too well for a variety of reasons this year and I am considering switching to individual snacks vs. class snack. I will update you after break.
- **Buddies:** We've been working on our integrity a lot and earned back our 1st grade buddy time, hurray!

## Special Happenings for January and February

- ★ Our 4th graders have a special opportunity to complete a hands-on science unit on systems and electricity with our middle school science teacher, Sarah. They will have 6 hour long sessions with her spread out over January with just our 9 fourths to focus on neat and nerdy science!
- ★ Our 4ths will also have the opportunity to work with an artist in residence on a 3 day stop motion animation unit. Every 4th grader will get to design their own stop motion movie. I will make sure to figure out a way to share the movies with families.
- ★ Our whole class will get to participate in an artist in residency for Taiko drums! They will learn about Japanese culture, history, and community along with learning how to create rhythms with the drums as a class! It's going to be awesome! Our two weeks of drumming happens in February.



*Dreidel fun & reading buddies!*

## What We're Learning

**4ths/5ths Math:** Something I have always wanted to do is help families understand our learning standards and have resources to learn more about them at home. I am working on a "Family Math Bridge" section of our class website. I will put tons of handy info there for you to check out and will use that page as the primary method of sharing about our math learning. Math has changed a lot over the years and I want to help keep you in the loop.

**Literacy:** We paused our PNW Dams & Journalism Storyline this week to focus on studying winter celebrations of light. We made nonfiction books about the Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas (and Xmas in Iceland), and Kwanzaa. Today we culminated this research by playing the dreidel game and enjoying yummy treats. After break we'll also learn more about why we have seasons. Our January focus of literacy will continue to be about information/nonfiction reading and writing. At home you can help support this learning by adding more nonfiction reading to your child's at home reading time, through magazines, newspapers, [Newsela](#) articles, etc.

**Social/Class:** We are working on managing our materials and supplies. This means things like putting pencils in jars, taking time to slow down and actually put our papers in our various folders, noticing when a supply is out of place and putting in back in the spot (regardless of if it's ours). We've earned 55 stars so far for this skill! Feel free to use this as motivation to also address this topic at home : D

# See you all in 2020!