

Greetings, Room 13 Families!

I hope you are all doing well. Here's a quick update for the week of 12/16-12/20.

Collaboration Day—During Friday's collaboration meeting, the First Grade team attended a training at the District Office targeting differentiating instruction to teach Common Core State Standards. We discussed the creation of units and lesson plans utilizing icons of depth and knowledge.

Winter Program—Thank you so much for coming to support the Room 13 kiddos during their Winter Show. I think they did a great job! They worked so hard the past few weeks learning all of the words, so it meant a lot to them (and me) that you were there to share the experience with us. Thanks also to the many parents who set up a delicious spread for the "after party." I am truly thankful to work with such wonderful families!

RAZ-KIDS—Students have now read a total of 2,710 minutes. At the computer lab today, I walked students through how to take an assigned assessment. This shows up as a "flight check." When they log in, they will receive prompts to do a microphone check. Please support them in figuring this out. If you have problems, they can always complete the flight check at school. During the assessment, they will read text out loud, retell the story or summarize the information they just read, and take a short quiz. The results are sent to me where I can tabulate their reading accuracy. Your child's log-in info is Teacher Username: mbeyer1, Password: student ID number at [www.raz-kids.com](http://www.raz-kids.com).

Monthly Oral Presentations: Nathan, Tait, Sophia, and Sophia finished up their reports this week to complete December's round of presentations. Great job, guys! We will kick off January with Ainsley, Amanda, Benny, Eli, Haven, Isaac, Isabel, and Jack the first week we're back. See the class website <http://firstgradewithmrsbeyer.weebly.com/> for more information.

Language arts: We practiced identifying and creating contractions this week. We also reviewed the phonics and wrote holiday-themed journal entries.

Math: We used tens and ones blocks to represent place value in numbers less than 100. For example, we showed 48 as 4 groups of ten and 8 ones. We will soon write numbers in expanded notation ( $48 = 40 + 8$ ) and estimate numbers.

Science/Social Studies: This week we read and recorded information about Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, and Saint Lucia Day.

Specials: Mrs. Pahk read Santa's Book of Names during our library time. Mrs. Choi taught us about radial symmetry. We became more familiar with Raz-Kids during our computer time. Mr. Wulff taught us "Must Be Santa."

Important dates:

- Friday, Dec. 20: Last day of school before Winter Break
- Monday, Jan. 7: School Resumes
- Friday, Jan. 10: Collaboration Day (8:10-12:45)
- Friday, Jan. 17: Teacher Work Day; no school
- Monday, Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Jr. holiday; no school

As always, contact me with any questions. Happy holidays! See you in 2014!

-Meredith Beyer

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