12-1977

The Li'l Paws, v2n2, December 1977

Malcolm Price Laboratory School
ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Elementary Christmas program will be held in the auditorium on Wednesday afternoon, December 21, starting at 2:10. The theme of the program this year is "Christmas Moods." The music to be presented during the program will be representative of the various moods of this holiday season. The elementary orchestra will be a featured part of the program this year. Parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends are invited to join us for this special program which will feature participation by all students in the elementary school.

Students will be dismissed to go home with their parents at the conclusion of the program (approximately 3:00 p.m.). Buses will run at the regular dismissal time. Parties will be held in the classrooms during the last hour of the day. Both morning and afternoon Nursery/Kindergarten classes will meet during the afternoon session (starting at 12:15 p.m.) on Wednesday, December 21.

UNIT III

During October and November Unit III students were studying the world of maps. Many parents may have noticed their supply of road maps dwindling as their little map scholars brought them to share at school. Maps of all sizes and types were brought. From cities to continents, the world of maps was explored.

After Thanksgiving we will begin the "Structures" unit of the science curriculum. The children will be using clay, straws, and cardboard strips to build structures of their own. This unit gives them a chance to develop some trial-and-error problem-solving techniques, as well as to explore the relationship between the materials used in construction and the structural and aesthetic design of the objects that can be built with them.

UNIT V

Students in Unit V have been working at refining the many skills they now possess. Critical thinking skills have been a focus in reading and social studies. During science units of Clay Boats and Bones, they have been required to manipulate variables and use various questioning techniques. In math they have been working on speed and accuracy with multiplication facts and concepts. Social skills have been a vital part of the program this fall.

Soon after vacation, Unit V will embark on the Berkeley Health Unit: The Heart and Circulatory System. Reading, film viewing, discussions and dissecting a heart will be important aspects of this nine week long study. A major emphasis will be on understanding the Circulatory System and how personal behavior affects its function.
UNIT I

The children in Unit I culminated their study of food with a Thanksgiving feast. They cooked vegetable soup and cornbread for the Wednesday event. We hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday.

Our Christmas unit is entitled Christmas Around The World. We will be finding the sources of our Christmas customs (trees, stockings, Santa) and hopefully receiving Christmas greetings from friends and relatives who live far away. Their exact location will be literally pin-pointed on maps of the world, United States, and Iowa. We also hope to be able to wish everyone a Merry Christmas in French, German, and Spanish.

GENERAL MUSIC

Classes for grades one through four have recently concluded a unit on musical instruments. Learning activities included the use of filmstrips and recordings, demonstrations of instruments by class members, a fieldtrip to the St. John Lutheran Church for a pipe organ demonstration and concert, and films on the manufacture of authentic reproductions of colonial musical instruments.

The singing portion of the general music program has included spirituals, work songs, patriotic songs, popular songs, and holiday numbers. Note-reading skills are emphasized through song material, games, and worksheets.

During December the fourth through sixth grades will be using a number of units from the new video taped series titled “MUSIC . . . IS.” The goals of this curriculum are for students to enjoy music, to hear and understand specific musical characteristics, to identify these characteristics in different settings, and to become interested in listening to a greater variety of music.

SIXTH GRADE SPANISH

Saludos! Greetings!

The sixth grade Spanish class has been very busy in the last weeks. The classes were divided into four groups. For three days each of the groups worked in one of four centers, namely: Latin American music appreciation, reading bilingual stories (Spanish-English), sign making of staff and faculty (in Spanish with title and subject area), and the most popular of all—Spanish cooking done from a recipe in Spanish.

All the groups worked diligently in their own areas and all groups were looking forward to being in the cooking center. We cooked tortillas, corn meal fritters, and bean dip. We ate the results of that activity and it was delicious! We not only cooked and ate, but learned the appropriate vocabulary.

Our sign project is not finished, but soon after our Christmas break we will be finished and all the signs will be laminated and posted appropriately.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A new emphasis has been placed on fitness activities this year as a result of physical fitness test scores of students in grades 5-12 last spring. Areas given particular attention include abdominal strength (sit-ups), arm and shoulder girdle strength (push-ups), and cardio-vascular fitness (running). The first 5-10 minutes of each class period are spent on activities related to fitness. We are already noting significant improvement, particularly in running. Fitness tests will be administered again in the spring to grades 5-12 with the Presidential Fitness Awards given to all who score above the 85th percentile in all six tests.

The regular physical education program this winter includes ball skills, tumbling and apparatus, swimming, rhythms, and low-organization games.
IMMUNIZATION UPDATE

On several occasions this year you have received notes or letters regarding the Iowa law which requires that all students be immunized against certain diseases in order to be allowed to attend school. The effective date for the law to be implemented (January 1, 1978) is rapidly approaching. We do not want to have to be in a position where your child must be excluded from school on January 4, 1978, but failure to comply with the requirements of the law will make such action necessary.

If you have not yet checked your child’s records against the Certificate of Immunization sent from school, please do this as quickly as possible. The Certificate must be completed with an accurate record of immunization history, and any necessary immunizations must be received so that the Certificate may be signed and placed in the school record for your child. If additional immunizations are required, we suggest that the physician complete and sign the Certificate before you return it to school. When immunizations are not required, you are asked to complete the information on the back of the Certificate and bring it to school for the nurse to sign.

Time is running short! Your cooperation in getting the Certificate completed before vacation is needed. If too many wait until Christmas vacation, January 4th will be a most confusing and difficult day for all of us. Please call Mrs. Duncan, the school nurse, to make an appointment to return the completed Certificate(s) for your child(ren). The phone number of the Health Office is 273-2348.

SPEECH AND HEARING

Hearing Screening in grades two, four, and six will be done before the end of the first semester. Unless Dr. Potter calls, you can assume your child’s hearing is satisfactory.

Thanks to the parents who returned speech class permit slips. All students should be scheduled by next semester.

ART

Unit II has been introduced to the art area and has worked with some basic materials including clay, compositions in yarn, crayon and chalk and construction of a playhouse.

During the first nine weeks, second graders in Unit III did clay monsters, undersea crayon resist with water color, tempera wood scrap patterns, string repeat prints, and construction paper halloween pictures and murals. Third graders are currently in art and have worked with clay, crayon, flourescent magic markers and cut paper design.

Unit IV fourth graders did clay tiles, tye dye, and composition of various types during the first nine weeks. Fifth graders are currently making plaster molds for poured clay pieces.

The general project for Unit V has been batik dyeing using the hot wax method.

All groups will do Christmas related activities in December.

UNIT VI

Mr. Clausen’s class has had a good start to the year. They are working on a leisure time unit and planning a camping trip to Yellow River Forest in the spring. They are presently studying a unit on feelings as a component of their Home and Family Life unit.

Mrs. Jorgensen’s class is working on making pottery in addition to their academic work. Earlier in the semester they spent time talking about the adventures of the “Hornpiper” and the Jorgensen’s trip from Illinois to the Bahamas.

ORCHESTRA

The fourth grade string players are progressing with music reading, bowing techniques, and memory tunes. The senior elementary orchestra is preparing to perform in the Elementary Christmas Program.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Winter is with us, and with it comes our request for your assistance. We do expect students to go outdoors during the noon hour except on extremely cold, windy days. Please help us by seeing that your child is properly dressed so he or she can enjoy the time they are outdoors (20-30 minutes). We urge that your child wear overshoes to help keep their feet dry and warm. Mittens or gloves, scarves, caps, and warm coats are essential for all. Please mark all items of clothing so that they may be returned if "lost". We do have a "lost and found" closet in the Elementary Office which should be checked if items are lost at school. A number of unclaimed items of very nice clothing are discarded or sent to Goodwill every year because they cannot be identified or are unclaimed at the end of the year.

School pictures and/or money should be returned to the Elementary Office no later than Friday, December 9th. Class composites are complimentary, and may be kept regardless of whether or not other pictures are purchased.

Nursery school registration fee for the second semester should be paid by January 27, 1978. The first semester ends on Friday, January 13th. Registration fee is $50.00 per semester.

A number of students are arriving at school well before 8:20 a.m. Safety Patrol is not provided until that time, nor are students allowed to go beyond the foyer to their classrooms. Please help us by holding your children at home so that they will arrive at school between 8:20 and 8:30 a.m.

NEW FAMILIES

The following families have registered new students since the start of the 1977-78 school year:

Thomas and Irene Pitz, parents of Tiffany in Unit I.

Sandra Woolsey, parent of Kimberly Wilson in Unit IV.

Kenneth and Janet Phillips, parents of Steve in Unit V.

UNIT IV

Fourth and fifth grade students have begun the Berkeley Health Project. The focus of this year's health unit includes an overview of energy and the body systems and concentrates on the digestive system, food and nutrition. This unit will extend into mid-January.

December 8 at 7:30 has been set aside for a VERY IMPORTANT parent meeting. Among those items on the agenda are the reorganization of Unit IV and a presentation about our Spanish program. Note this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

UNIT II

After a study of food, which involved the holidays, we will concentrate on science in addition to the ongoing reading, writing, and math programs.

In February the post office unit (which closely relates to Valentine's Day) will find us writing a letter and following its path by taking a field trip to the Post Office.

The decision-making skills unit initiated in the fall has brought results in the classroom and in situations outside the classroom. It is hoped that parents are seeing improvement in their child's taking of responsibility at home also.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Nov. 29 . . . . . . . . . . Unit V Homeroom Meeting
Dec. 8 . . . . . . . . . . Unit IV Homeroom Meeting
Dec. 12, 13, 14 . . . . . . . . . NUHS Madrigal Dinner
Dec. 21 . . . . . . . . . . Elementary Christmas Program
Dismissal for Vacation at 3:00 p.m.
Dec. 22-Jan. 3 . . . . . . . . Winter Vacation
Jan. 4 . . . . . . . . . . Classes Resume at 8:30 a.m.
Jan. 13 . . . . . . . . . . End of 1st Semester
Jan. 27 . . . . . . . . . . Nursery Registration Fee for 2nd Semester Due