

Friday, January 8, 2010

Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe that it is now 2010! I hope that all of you had a wonderful Winter Break. I have heard many stories of family trips, get-togethers and other ways that the children spent their holidays. We made a class book, During The Holidays I....

This week we began dismissing classes at the same time as the students in grades 1-3. Everyone has been wonderful about picking his or her children up at 2:20 PM. BUT please remember that every Wednesday is a minimum day. Previously, that did not impact the kindergarten classes but now the kindergarten students are dismissed at 1:30 along with all the other children in the entire school. Please note on your calendar that every Wednesday is a minimum day with early dismissal.

We have started our next thematic unit: Jambo, Hello Kenya. Our KinderFriends book was Where Are We Going? Kenya. Our Read Aloud Book was It Takes A Village and the Social Studies Link book was Young Martin Luther King Jr.. The Barbara Saul book was A Year of Months. Our Phonics Library book was Nat, Pat and Nan. Be sure to check the school web site for interesting links about Kenya. <http://www.pinehillschool.org/kenya.html>

Our letter of the week was "Pp". The AlphaFriend for letter P is Pippa Pig. We sang Pippa's song and took home the little book showing Pippa Pig and things that start with the letter P. We listed things that start with the letter P. See if your child knows the name of the letter P, the shape of the letter P, the sound of the letter P and if they can find three things in your house that start with the letter P.

Please take the time to read each night with your child and to have them "read" to you. Be sure to remind your child to record what they have read to you on their reading logs. The students are to return their reading logs to school on Fridays. If there is no school on Friday, they may bring them in on Thursday or even the next week. I send home new, blank reading logs with each of these notes and the children may ask for a new one any time they have filled theirs up and need one. Remembering to return reading logs is a good way to foster self-responsibility in your child. Also, it is their homework grade.

Baba Jamal Koram, The Story Man, will be here on Monday to tell stories to the children. You can go see him at the Humboldt County Library Wednesday night at 6:30 pm.

NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 18 in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.