

Dear Parents,

You may have noticed the smiley faces are no longer coming home. We are trying something new this quarter. The students have been divided into three groups (red group, blue group, green group). Each group is working to earn pom-poms for the following: kindness, responsibility, following directions, voice control, safety, and overall appropriate behavior. During the course of the day, I award pom-poms when earned. Students put their pom-pom into a team cup. At the end of the day, we count the pom-poms in each cup. The group with the highest number gets to take home a note about their achievement.

I am trying to promote a sense of community, teamwork, and pride. Students are encouraged to cheer for their teammates and to remind their teammates to be appropriate. I continue to look for ways to teach some of our students what is appropriate and what is not. Mixing things up inspires students to try.

Several students shared with me if they don't take home a positive note, they will be "grounded". I certainly hope this is not true. I take care of all behavior issues at school. I don't expect parents to discipline their children for something that happened at school. You all have enough to take care of while your child is at home. Since I am present and see the issues first hand, it makes sense that I hand out any consequences.

Between now and Christmas we will be studying about times of long ago and comparing them to our life today. We will be specifically focusing on goods and services during the times of the Pilgrims, during the childhood of Laura Ingalls Wilder (mid-late 1800s), during World War 1 (early 1900's), the mid 1900's and today. Our information will come from literature and videos. We will be learning how to cook from scratch, making decorations, and gifts as people did long ago.

Don't forget the book fair tonight here at school. There is always a great selection and proceeds go directly to our Literacy Fund.

Yesterday was Science Wednesday. The kids sponge painted soil and rocks for a bulletin board display of wild animals. They colored and cut out a variety of animals identifying them as migratory, semi- or fully hibernating, or winter animals.

November is a very short month for us. Between Veteran's Day and the Thanksgiving break, students miss a lot of school. Please read with your child as much as possible to keep the momentum going. I will send home a variety of books for Thanksgiving break (Wednesday through Sunday of next week). Remember if you have a computer, Raz-Kids is available to your child ([www.raz-kids.com](http://www.raz-kids.com)). My password is wbrown.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday next week.

Wanda Brown

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