

Welcome back, everyone! I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving break.

First, there are A LOT of students out ill at this time. We had 6 students out in my room today, and we've never had more than 2 out sick any other day this year! I have been reminding students to wash their hands frequently, and to wipe down their desk and belongings regularly. Both respiratory (colds) and stomach illnesses have been going around. Please take complaints about headaches, sore throats, dizziness, and nausea seriously!

Angel Fund flyers went home today. These are for families that are able to "adopt" another WT family for the Christmas season. If you feel that you are in a position to help, please look for the dark green paper to come home with your child.

The 5th grade started a new **Intervention** period recently. They are split into groups based on areas of need. They are grouped based on reading first. However, this time will also be used for extra math help, and students can come to me any days during this time if they need extra practice with something in math class. The last few days were focused on reviewing multi-digit multiplication and long division. Starting Wednesday, they can come to me for help with fractions, too.

In **Math**, we spent today reviewing equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, and fractions on a number line. Students that did not do well on the test in any of these areas met with me individually. They will have the option to re-take the test later this week.

We will start the Multiplying & Dividing Fractions section tomorrow. The information is already up on the website, including tutorials, websites, and pictures.

In **Science**, the students have been writing their constellation stories. They are due by Wednesday. The unit on Stars will continue through the beginning of next week. (I apologize that this section has not been updated on the website in awhile. I will get to it soon!)

This Wednesday will be the last visit from Officer Spradlin for **DARE**. They will begin writing their DARE essays that are required to graduate the program. These essays will be counted as both a science grade and an English grade, and will be due before winter break. One or two students will also be chosen from each homeroom to read their essay at the graduation ceremony in January. The graduation is set for Wednesday, January 7th at 9am in the cafeteria. The event is very short- Officer Spradlin speaks, the chosen students read their essays, each student's name is called to receive his/her certificate, the end!- but parents are welcome to attend if they want to.

We will be having our **Winter Party** on Friday, December 19th. We will have activities throughout the day, but our actual party will be around 11am. *NANCE HR ONLY: I usually have a Polar Express day in the morning, where students can wear PJs, bring a pillow & stuffed animal, and drink hot chocolate and have snacks. I would love if a few parents could come with an activity or two for the students that day.*

In **Social Studies**, we are just starting the section on the early colonies. We are midway through Chapter 4. We will finish lesson 3 tomorrow and discuss the Mayflower Compact, then move on to Lesson 4 Wednesday about the French and Dutch colonies. The students spent a bit of time on Wednesday looking at a website (www.mayflowerhistory.com) that has lots of primary sources, such as journal entries and community record books. There is also a passenger list and some Thanksgiving history information.

The students informed me today that there are 14 school days left until Winter Break, but who's counting??