



Mrs. Christ's Message	<p>I hope everyone enjoyed their weekend and had the chance to get some holiday shopping done. I can't believe that winter break has already arrived! I am wondering how yet again we are two weeks away from another new year! In the midst of preparing for winter break and trying to keep the students focused, we have a busy fun-filled academic week ahead of us!</p> <p>I wish you all a holiday season that is filled with joy and happiness. I hope that you enjoy celebrating your family traditions and ring in the New Year surrounded by family and friends. Please note that students return from Winter Break on Monday, January 5, 2009! I look forward to great beginnings in the new year and continued student success!</p> <p>Our class holiday party is scheduled for this Thursday from 1-2:20. Thanks again to Kirsten for putting this holiday celebration together for our class. Also, I would like to thank all the families for their donations (treats and goodies) for the celebration, and the Robinson family for donating gingerbread house kits for students to build in groups for the celebration.</p>
Important Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please send in “new” teddy bears for Mrs. Patterson’s annual Teddy Bear drive for Children’s Hospital from now until December 18th! • Mrs. Christ’s holiday party is Thursday, December 18th. • Winter Break is Friday Dec. 19th – Jan. 4th; students return Monday, January 5th!
Language Arts/ Reading/ Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the short four-day week we will take a break from our weekly story, spelling, and Wordly Wise. • Literature Circle Novels: Group #1: <i>The Wanderer</i> Group #2: <i>The BFG</i> Group #3: <i>The Secret School</i> • Poetry: This week we will focus on poetry. We will review various forms of poetry, literary elements, figurative language, and develop an appreciation for this artistic form of written expression. Students will add another poetry sample to their Poetry Portfolio; these amazing collections will become a life-long keepsake and will be showcased at Open House in late May. • Narrative Essays: Students will complete the final draft of their narrative essays this week, due Thursday!
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 7 Objectives: Multiply/Divide Fractions: promote mastery of multiplication & division of fractions & mixed numbers. Estimation of products is emphasized, and properties of multiplication are extended to fractions & mixed numbers. Use strategies to solve problems & develop algebraic thinking. • Math 24, Math Tiles, Chess and Sodoku
Science, Social Studies & Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Museum of Exploration: Students completed their exhibits last week and had such a great time working collaboratively and creatively through the process. • This week each group will create an original Podcast to share their project with parents via my website. Students will include original photographs of their exhibit artifacts they created and their research. When we return from break, the Podcasts will be uploaded for your viewing enjoyment.
P.E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill building, running & games
Kudos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The families that donated items for the LCH’s Touch a Heart Toy and Teddy Bear Drive. • PTA for the delicious treats for the teachers at LCH in the staff lounge last week, they were yummy! • To my students for a job well done on their Mystery Literature Responses! • The families that donated for our holiday celebration!
Star	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This week I am pleased to announce that Jaxon Guenther is our shining star. His positive character traits are noteworthy for improving his organizational skills and gaining interest in writing. He is also always willing to share a fun fast fact from as our history buff. He continues to make connections on a daily basis which exemplifies qualities of an interactive learner!