



Stowers Elementary

Magnet School of International Studies



Snow Leopard News



International Baccalaureate World School

December 2017

A message from our Principal: Here comes DECEMBER! The holidays are here! May the joy and blessings of the season come to you and your family. During our first trimester of school we have taken our first of 3 Benchmark tests (grades 2-6), made it through the progress reports, presented and celebrated at our International Festival, and held our parent teacher conferences. I am very proud of the progress our students are making. Please continue to work with your child on memorizing their math facts,-- adding, subtracting, in grades K-3, multiplying and dividing in grades 3-6. Starting in January we will test our students monthly on their math facts. Those that score a 100% will receive an award-- so practice those facts. Read! Each one of our student should be reading at least 30 minutes each night and at least a book every two weeks or a month depending on the grade level. So keep reading and practicing those math facts! You can also purchase the Spectrum series Reading workbook. They have high interests stories with reading comprehension questions to keep our children (K-6) growing in their reading. Please keep an eye on the calendar as this month also goes by pretty quickly. Santa will be visiting us on the morning of the 18. You can't miss that! And we are off for the Christmas and New Year Holidays starting December 22 - January 7. So during the break practice those math facts! **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!**

Magnet Coordinator: For the month of December, the *IB Learner Profile* is **Caring** and the *Attitude* is **Empathy**. It is important for our students to show empathy, compassion, and respect toward their peers. During the holiday season, this is especially important. We would like to thank you for the wonderful turnout during our International Festival. We appreciate your support in helping to make our school unique in celebrating cultural similarities and differences from around the world.

Library: Hello amazing Stowers parents hope all of you had a pleasurable and relaxing Thanksgiving break, I would like to invite you all to attend this Friday in our amazing library our annual Pictures with Santa event. Bring all your kids and make a memory with Santa. As the holidays begin to sneak up on us, I would like to remind everyone that we are still in need of newspapers from around the world that can be on display. This will further assist our library in keeping with the international theme for which Stowers is known for. We are also collecting any book donations that are in good to fair condition. I am in the process of weeding books that are either out dated or no longer in any condition to be checked out to the students. Any donations will be gladly welcomed especially Star Wars, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and Harry Potter based books. Our next Library Committee meeting will be held next year Wednesday January 10th at 1:00 p.m. in our amazing library. Please bring any and all ideas to begin an incredible 2018 year. Lastly, I would like to wish all of you an incredible, happy and safe holiday season. Have fun wherever you go, enjoy and cherish the time you have together and make those ever lasting memories. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!!!

Computer Lab: December is a short month. It's holiday season. Most of the grades are learning about all the holidays and the cultures of other country celebrating this time of the year. 6th graders are researching about the different religions and they will make Google Slides out of researching. Kindergarteners and first graders will start practicing on basic word processing skills (capitalization, punctuations, use of back-space key and enter key). Rest of the graders will keep practicing their typing through various programs and websites. Happy Holidays!

Spanish: For the month of December, Students in Kindergarten and First grade are learning Spanish words related to Christmas celebrations and I am reading Spanish stories to them "La Flor de Nochebuena" "Las posadas". Second graders are learning words related to past and present in Spanish as well as family members. Third graders are studying words related to las posadas in the Spanish culture as well as traditions and clothing. Four graders are learning the words related to food chain for the next two weeks and then, we are beginning a unit where students are going to compare and contrast folktales in the Spanish culture. Fifth graders are finishing labeling their maps with names of the continents and oceans in Spanish as well as the cardinal points. Finally, six graders are learning the Spanish words related to Mesopotamia ancient culture and finishing a ancient irrigation system picture to explain how this irrigation system worked.

Kindergarten: For the month of December Kindergarten will continue our IB Unit, "How We Express Ourselves". During this unit we will be discussing celebrations from around the world. As a culminating event, the Kindergarten classes will be putting on a performance highlighting celebrations from around the world! In language arts we will continue identifying letters and their sounds. They will also apply their knowledge when identifying rhyming words, listening for beginning and ending sounds, and recognizing words with matching sounds. When listening to stories, we will identify characters, settings, and events. During the second trimester of kindergarten, students will be encouraged to independently write sentences with

sounded out words. Please be sure to also spend 5-10 minutes each night reviewing the weekly spelling words and sight words. In math, we will be working with the numbers 1-20 by comparing greater/less than number groups.

First Grade: Seasons Greetings From First Grade! December brings us to the last month of the year! In language arts, first grade continues to focus on writing skills and drawing evidence in text. In grammar, students will learn to use commas and verbs. Students will continue learning addition and subtraction facts to 20 in math. They will build on their understanding of making a 10 to help them subtract, and learn strategies that will help them subtract quickly. We continue to explore our IB unit on families too. To end the month, first grade will have a holiday performance on December 21 at 10:30 am on the stage.

Second Grade: Hello Second Grade Families! This month we are wrapping up our IB Unit Where We Are in Place and Time (Personal and Family Histories). We heard wonderful stories about all of our families and their traditions throughout this unit. The cultural feast was delicious. We all learned many things about different cultures. In math, we are working on three-digit addition and subtraction. Our language arts this month will include Earth Science informational and fictional texts, along with social science texts that discuss how people can help out their communities. We will have celebrations in our classes prior to the long winter break. We wish all our families a wonderful holiday season and a terrific break! We're looking forward to seeing the kids back in January.

Third Grade: Happy Holidays from Third Grade! For the month of December, third graders are studying heritage and traditions through the arts. In Language Arts, we are reading literature (fiction and non-fiction) with a global perspective in order to gain an understanding and appreciation of other culture's traditions, beliefs, and values. Students should be working on their Modern Day Pilgrim Dolls at home as part of our unit, How We Express Ourselves. For Mathematics, students will study fractions as equal parts of a whole as well as place fractions on a number line. Please continue to practice their multiplication facts with them to improve automatic recall. We will start timed tests this month.

Fourth Grade: This month, fourth graders will begin a new IB unit focusing on cultural literature. We will finish up our division unit, and learn about fractions. We will also finish studying our Life Science unit with a research project. This month's learner profile is caring. Students show empathy, compassion, and respect towards the needs and feelings of others.

Fifth Grade: Happy December! During this month, fifth grade students will begin a new Unit of Inquiry called "Immigration". This unit will include an in depth look at the opportunities and challenges immigrants face when they immigrate to a new country. Students will also be asked to look at their own familial origins and heritage. We will be sharing and learning about each others values, traditions, and customs. In math, students will be learning how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators using models and equations to represent the problem. Some important vocabulary to review with your child will be: simplify, common denominator, unlike denominator, and benchmark fraction. We wish you all a wonderful winter break with friends and families!

Sixth Grade: 6th Graders are beginning the school year with the IB Unit "How We Organize Ourselves" The Central Idea for this unit is "The Structure of Hierarchies" help to develop civilizations.

- In Science, students will be learning about Plate Tectonics, and Earthquakes.
- In Math students are concentrating on Properties of Operation, Algebraic Expressions, Exponents, Variables
- In Social Studies we are learning Early Man
- In our Language Arts: We've been focusing on Expository Text, Narrative Nonfiction, Historical Fiction, and Realistic Fiction.
- Grammar is a daily focus in our learning to become better readers and writers.
- Technology is used for Google classroom, Swun Math, and Pearson Realize for the main subject areas.

Reminder Camp fee and paperwork is due Monday, December 4 (cash, cashier check, Money order)
Souvenir money is separate cash only

PTA News: Happy Holiday Stowers families. 'Tis the Season already. We have some wonderful events planned this month. December 01- Santa will be paying us a visit. Please stop by from 6-8pm for this wonderful photo opportunity. December 04-08 we will be hosting our Annual Holiday Boutique. All items \$1-\$2 dollars. There are gifts for everyone. What better way to say Happy Holidays than with a candy gram. Candy grams will be available for \$1 December 11-15 after school and delivered to classrooms December 20th. While shopping for that Special dinner make sure you clip your box tops. We will have pizza party up for grabs in 2018. Please remember it's NEVER to late to become a PTA member. Help us reach out membership goal. Thank you for all your support.