

# LAKE MICHIGAN NEWS

Mrs. Schwalm

December, 2014

## Important Dates

### December

12/16—Jeans for Cards

12/18—Jeans for \$1

### BOOK REPORT DUE

12/19-Spirit Day/Holiday Party

12/22-1/2 - **WINTER BREAK!**

**No School**

### January

1/5—Classes resume

1/15—Birthday Bash: Jan/July

1/19—**NO SCHOOL**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/21—Jeans for \$1

1/23—**NO SCHOOL**

Record's Day

1/27—Jeans for Cards

1/29—Principal's Breakfast

## What We're Up To

The students have been working hard to master math facts. Anytime they can practice their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts with you is very helpful. It is very important that they have those facts memorized! The 3rd graders have begun multiplication and can use practice with the new concept.

In writing, the students are working hard to remember to restate the question into their answer. Capitalization and punctuation are critical, and correct use is expected. Keeping a journal at home to record important daily events or special happenings is one way to practice at home. You can go over your child's work to show them how to find and correct mistakes they are making.

We encourage you to keep reading during Winter Break! Practice, practice, practice!

We would like to welcome Mrs. Kahn to our classroom! She is our new classroom aid, and we are so glad she has joined us.



## Holiday Party

Our last day before Winter Break, **December 19th**, Lake Michigan students are in for a treat. They will have an exciting day of craft centers! They will be creating winter themed crafts and decorating cookies. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to bring in a healthy snack. We have pretzels, cheese cubes, juice, and the paper ware covered. We have 29 students and are still in need of fruit, veggies/dip, popcorn, raisins, etc.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all of you that have supported Lake Michigan through chaperoning field trips, sending in donations, and supporting your child at home. It makes a big difference having someone at home to help make sure homework is completed correctly and offering support as the students need it. Thank you!

## Field Trips

Our last field trip to the Toledo Botanical Gardens was filled with science and nature. The students participated in hands-on learning activities and games to reinforce our science unit on how plants reproduce to make more plants. It was unseasonably cold and snowy that day, but we did take a short nature walk to look for evidence of plant and animal life.

## Parent Corner

Worried about what your child is going to do for two weeks of vacation? When they're not playing video games or making snowmen, how about an educational website?! There are many FUN sites that are also skill building. You can "google" any specific games, such as "time games," to practice a certain skill. Try [www.mathfactcafe.com](http://www.mathfactcafe.com), [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com), [abcya.com](http://abcya.com), or plan a trip to the library!

## Questions or Concerns?

Please stop in before/after school, or feel free to call (734) 854-5437.

[jschwalm@newbedfordacademy.com](mailto:jschwalm@newbedfordacademy.com)

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Cont'd

## What is Our Focus?





Below is a list of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and GLCE topics that we will be focusing on in December.

### MATH

3rd Grade:

-  Telling Time
-  Measuring to the nearest inch/1/2 inch
-  Multiplying and Dividing using drawings
-  Finding the unknown number in a problem Ex:  $8 \times \underline{\quad} = 48$  or  $6 \times 6 = \underline{\quad}$

4th Grade:

-  Fractions
-  2 x 2-digit multiplication Ex:  $62 \times 31 =$
-  Word problems
-  Decimal numbers






### SOCIAL STUDIES

3rd Grade: Native Americans cont'd

4th Grade: The invention of the automobile and Michigan's role in the auto industry

### LANGUAGE ARTS

We will be engaging in these activities monthly:

-  Writing narrative, informational, and opinion pieces
-  Phonics
-  Grammar
-  sight words
-  speaking (book reports and other projects that they present)

### SCIENCE

3rd Grade: —igneous, sedimentary, & metamorphic rocks—The rock cycle

4th Grade: —Earth's gravity & the moon—space exploration