



WESTERN HILLS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

A Word from the Director

Dear WHA Families,

Happy Holidays!! 'Tis the season to be jolly, merry, happy and grateful for all the wonderful things in our lives. The staff and I are certainly grateful for our wonderful families who entrust us with their most precious gifts, our students. And although December brings us the much anticipated Christmas holiday and time off, I want to recognize all the fun and educational activities our students took part in during November.

Thank you to Laurie Tyree and her son, Bentley, for arranging our 4th and 5th grade visit to a local farm and horse ranch. The experience was very educational but also lots of fun.

Thank you to Mrs. Barbara Stegmiller for organizing our Veteran's Day program which was also a huge success. Our students performed beautifully and honored our veterans and active duty parents with songs and readings of appreciation. So as December comes in our students will continue to learn new concepts and ideas while having fun and preparing for the holidays. This year we will not be having a big schoolwide Christmas production as we continue to observe Covid guidelines but each class will celebrate with a class party. Your child's teacher will send details home for what each class will be doing and what they will need. Please be on the lookout for this information.

Our **Christmas break** will run from **December 20 to January 3, 2022. Students return** to classes on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022.**

And it is with much sadness that we **bid Ms. Audrey farewell** as she will be leaving the WHA family to take on a new job. She will definitely be missed and it will be hard to find someone to replace her. Her hard work and dedication to the school have been much appreciated and we wish her the best of luck in her next work adventure.

The Western Hills Academy staff would like to wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and may you enjoy the holiday with friends and family. Let's all keep in mind the true meaning of Christmas and count our blessings. God bless us all. See you in 2022!

Blessings and best wishes,
Patricia Aguirre
Director

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Awesome 2&3 yr olds,

The holidays are upon us. Let's celebrate the reason for the season. December is a short but fun month. We will continue to work on letters, numbers, colors and shapes. Our class will be working hard like little elves on Christmas arts and crafts as well as a gift for their parents. Our classroom will have a small Christmas party during the morning of Thursday December 16th 2021. If your child does not attend school on that day he/she can join us for the party from 9:00-11:00am on that day. Last day of the first semester is on Friday December 17th 2021. Our first day of the second semester is Tuesday January 4th 2022.

Birthdays in December Thiago December 8 and Kaylee December 28.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Blessed and safe New Year.

Mrs Carmen Lerma

Parents,

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was a good and happy time with family. December will be a fun month talking about winter, snowmen, Santa Claus. We will also be working with the letters M N O P number 3 star shape colors red and green. Thank you parents for your support in our school activities and for helping in our class parties. Birthday wishes to Ellison Herrera (12/9) and Caspian McElroy (12/23). Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Many health blessing.



Dear Parents,

Terrific 2's

Mrs Marisela.



December is here! I hope you are enjoying this holiday season surrounded by your family and friends. For the month of December, we are going to draw circles and lines, count numbers from 1 to 5, color using red and green, color a Santa Claus, make a Santa face, tape bells for Jingle Bell songs, sing other Christmas songs and story telling. I hope everybody has a wonderful holiday season. Thank you!

Best,
Mrs. Lorena Vazquez

Tis the season to be jolly, happy and grateful for for everything good this year. December is a short and busy month, we will be reinforcing numbers from 1-6 and working on our Christmas crafts and decorations.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Yewith friends and family.

Mrs.Ortiz.

PRE-K THROUGH 5TH

Dear Parents,

Before winter break we will complete Theme 4. we will be exploring the concepts of time, weather, and seasons. We will focus on the letters I, J, K, and L. Sight words covered will be: you, can, look, and at. Please review these with your child. A special thanks to all those who took part in our Veteran's Day program. It was an honor, the students did an amazing job! The students also enjoyed the Native American Museum presented by the 4th and 5th graders.

All Aboard it's time to take the Polar Express, on Wed. Dec. 8th. Students may wear their PJ's and enjoy a fun filled day! As always thank you for all your support. Many Blessings during this Holiday season.

Pre-K Teachers

Mrs. Mendoza, Mrs. Aguilar, & Mrs. Mercado

Dear parents,

I hope everyone had a wonderful "Thanksgiving break." I would like to thank Mrs. Stegmiller for making "Veteran's Day" a success, the students did an amazing job!

Important dates to remember this month:

Christmas party: 12/17

Christmas break: 12/20-1/03

Students will be back to classes on January 04

Happy Holidays,

Mrs. Ramirez

Welcome to December.

Kinder had a lot of fun performing for our veterans and active-service members.

Thanks to those parents who for participated in our program.

Our class will continue learning how to read and count and write numbers 1-10.

We've even started to do addition and subtraction.

December is a short month that's going to whiz by!

For our classroom Christmas party, we will have a meal from Chic-Fil-A (A room mother will contact you about the meal-details and cost per child). We will have a Christmas **Book-gift-exchange**. Children that **choose to participate** will buy a book and gift-wrap it for the party. Girls will exchange with girls and boys will exchange with boys. Please bring the wrapped gift the day of the party (December 17).

Thanks for a great first semester. Have a wonderful holiday!



December already, wow!!

We have been going a mile a minute it seems. November was really enjoyable for the class. The Veterans Day program was very special, and we are thankful that Mrs. Stegmiller planned the program for the school. The students continued to work on subtraction with regrouping, and are currently working on multiplication tables. The students have been enjoying cursive writing, as well as listening to the book, "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory." The week before Thanksgiving was special in many ways. It was nice to hear the students talk about their families, and everything they are grateful for. In Social Studies, we read about Native Americans, and discussed Thanksgiving traditions. The 4th and 5th graders created a "Native American Museum." We walked through, and learned about many of the tribes, their homes, and saw a number of different artifacts. Looking ahead, we will be studying "Christmas Around the World" and learning about Hanukkah as well. Soon, we will send home some information for a small gift exchange, and the upcoming Christmas party. We sure appreciate all of your support, and we pray that this holiday season brings good health, and joy to you all.

Thank you,
Mrs. Mora, and Mrs. Billstone



News from 4th and 5th Grade,

Let me begin this newsletter by giving a recap of what the students worked on in November. In ELA the students read the novel, "Sign of the Beaver". This book was a historical novel about survival, friendship, fear and courage, and pride. This novel encouraged the students to think about life at a time when you were given ample opportunities to give thanks for all the good things God has given us. It is also a day to celebrate family. I found this novel to be appropriate as the students began their Thanksgiving break. In December, the students will read "A Christmas Carol", this novel will focus on Christmas traditions, greed, and generosity. It will show the students that a miserly, greedy, lonely man can be transformed into an empathetic and kind individual. Also, in ELA the students will begin working in the computer lab, while there they will be practicing typing, vocabulary, and creating a variety of essays. This will encourage practice in spelling, paragraph form, writing techniques, and more detailed compositions. In math, the students are working on long and short division, perimeter and area, circumference and radius, and conversions from cm to mm and ft. to yds. They will continue to focus on the basic math methods to encourage them to be more fluent with computing these types of numbers and understanding the relationship between them. They will also be able to use these numbers in real-world scenarios. In Science, the students have been working on STEM challenges. These projects focused on engineering; they were given directions, materials, and problems to solve. At the end of each challenge, they had to come up with their own solutions from evidence pertaining to their project. The students created pilgrim houses, bows and arrows, and wigwams. The students will continue to work in the area of physical science (force, motion, and gravity) for the month of December. In Social Studies, the students completed their study on Native Americans across the United States. They presented (to the whole school and parents) a Native American Museum that consisted of examples of Native American Villages, toys, and artifacts associated with the different tribal regions. All of their presentations were amazing, and they put a lot of work into their exhibits. I am so proud of all of them. For this month, the students will work on a Christmas Around the World Project that they will need to complete at home. This project will consist of research and creativity. Also, in class we will be working on Christmas Around the World. Students will compare and contrast the variety of celebrations that will be ongoing during this holiday season. Some of the celebrations that we will cover will be Israel (Hanukkah), Germany (Advent), and Mexico (Posada). All over the world, Christmas celebrations reflect local culture and traditions. The festivities can be startlingly different from country to country and because they all focus on unity, I thought this will be a great extension to our own celebrations. Finally, in Fine Arts, the students learned and performed a Native American dance and song. All of the students had a great time teaching the dance to the younger students at the school. This month, the students will be working on a holiday reader's theatre, songs, and creative art activities.

I would like to wish all of my families a blessed holiday season and thank you for allowing me to be part of your child's school year. This will be a fun filled and great learning month!

Yours truly,
Ms. Stegmiller