Dear Stony Point Families,

Many of you have heard of the book “All I Ever Wanted to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,” by Robert Fulgham. Last week, I had the pleasure of joining our Title I Preschool for “Pajama Night” and I left thinking, “All I ever needed to know I learned in Stony Point’s Prekindergarten!” Pajama Night was a time for families and students to come together to enjoy pizza, good books, and just have fun spending time together. I was reminded that evening of the importance of taking time to enjoy the very simple pleasures in life, like spending time with your family and friends, reading a good book, and enjoying the coziness of hot chocolate in your PJs!

One of the challenges of this season can be the “stuff” challenge. As I get older, I realize that sometimes the “stuff” can get in the way of things that are truly important. This holiday season, I hope you’ll join me in reflecting on these lessons I am learning from our prekindergarten students (Clearly, they have it all figured out!):

- Every day is a day to discover and learn something new.
- There’s always room for one more friend on the carpet/in circle time.
- It’s ok (and even fun!) to wear a turkey hat and sing a song together.
- A good day includes hard work and time for play.
- A good rest time can do wonders for a positive attitude!
- I learn best and am willing to take risks when I feel safe and cared for.

...of course, the list goes on...

Thank you for the privilege of working with and learning from your children. I hope you’ll take time to experience great joy in simply being together. And most importantly, don’t forget to take time to learn great lessons from your children. Have a wonderful break!

Best,
Carrie Neeley
Salons and Writing Prompt News

Our November salon consisted of a whole school meeting. We met in the gym and watched the imovies that 5th graders made. Their movie could only be 2 minutes long and it had to take place and be about Stony Point School. What would it be like to be locked in the school at night when the dragon comes alive? Was ToeJam, the iguana, real? We all enjoyed these movies very much.

In December, we had our second all-school all-on-your-own writing prompt. We watched a movie, The Remarkable Riderless Runaway Tricycle which had no talking. Our prompt was to finish the ending of the story. In our December salon, we shared our prompts in multi-age level groups. Some students wrote a lot and some students drew pictures. We talked about the thinking behind the writing. We then went back to class and watched the end of the movie as the film makers made it.

Pre-k News

The preschoolers have been very busy reading about gingerbread people and houses. In December, we started reading several different versions of The Gingerbread Man. Some of our favorites have been The Gingerbread Man by Jim Aylesworth, The Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett, and The Gingerbread Man by Paul Galdone. The preschoolers have been using venn diagrams to compare and contrast the different gingerbread stories. We have also been acting out our favorite versions!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is busy preparing for winter! In December, we examined the winter-themed stories of author and illustrator Jan Brett. She has written and illustrated many children’s books including some well known titles such as The Mitten, The Gingerbread Baby and The Three Snow Bears. Students also learned about holidays such as Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. We worked hard with our music teacher, Mrs. Owney, to prepare for a Winter Musical Performance on December 17th.

First Grade News

In December, first graders have been preparing for winter! We have explored the ways that people, plants and animals get ready for the cold months ahead. We have also learned about winter holidays and traditions including Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Years Day.

Second Grade News

In science, second graders are beginning a unit study on weather. Each student will have an opportunity to visit the Stony Point weather station. Our focus will be learning the names of weather instruments, observing daily weather patterns, and recording data. We hope to have a visit from our local...
meteorologist from Channel 19, Brantley Ussery. His presentation date is to be announced soon.

In social studies, students will be studying the following famous Americans, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson, and Martin Luther King, Jr, and their historical significance and contributions to our country.

Cursive handwriting will begin in January. Students are excited about this new writing challenge.

Art News

Artsonia is a web-based art museum where children can see their art displayed. Many classes have artwork posted. The students love seeing their artwork on the internet. There is a link on our school homepage.

Most classes have moved through at least one art piece related to a research project. There are weather paintings, symbols of the US, interesting plants and animals, Native American collages, and life cycles in different biomes to name just a few. Come enjoy the halls of our art museum!

Third Grade News

The third graders have been very busy with the annual Stony Point food drive. They wrote speeches and presented their goal of collecting boxed and canned foods to all of the classrooms. Every morning the students collected the donations and sorted them. This has been a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in our own community, while also practicing valuable math skills such as estimating, rounding, graphing and regrouping. In science we have been studying habitats and food chains. Students are currently working on an interdisciplinary project with Mary Lou in art. We are excited for the final product. Happy holidays and enjoy winter break.

Fourth Grade News

4th graders have been busy in the 2nd quarter exploring weather and our earth, moon and sun. Hands-on work has included building classroom barometers to monitor air pressure and checking the school’s weather station daily and noting observations in classroom Weather Logs. We have also conducted an experiment where a hard-boiled egg was forced into a glass jar through air pressure (a lit match inside the jar changed the pressure and made this possible). Students have worked in small groups to research and present findings on various topics, including different types of clouds, and facts about the earth, moon and sun. In art, students have created watercolor paintings of various weather types, and written cinquains to accompany them. We look forward to exploring the regions of Virginia in the New Year.
Library News
The November Scholastic Book Fair was a huge, record breaking success! Our students are already enjoying the wonderful new books we were able to purchase for the library as well as leveled book sets for the book room through this fundraiser. Thanks so much to all of our parent volunteers and to all the families who provided generous support. We hope you have some warm moments reading with your children over the holidays!

Fifth Grade News
'Tis the season for testing! 5th grade has been working to complete mid-year online assessments in reading, writing and math. These county-produced assessments tell about each student's strengths and areas where help is needed in preparation for SOLs later in the year. We are glad to have these behind us and will focus over the break on tailoring lessons to needs pointed out by these.

In Language Arts, we will continue to work in our book clubs and some students will be producing a project based on their book. We will also be starting our non-fiction persuasive essays.

Social Studies classes will continue studying the American Revolution.

Math will soon be moving into adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions, decimals and percentages.

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you after break!

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