Dear Mudbug Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and well-rested from the Thanksgiving Break. In a little less than three weeks, we will enjoy another holiday break. The last day of school before the break is Friday, December 16. This will be a full day of school. Students will return Wednesday, January 4th.

During the month of December, we will remember those less fortunate by supporting the United Way. Students may participate in any number of dress-down activities for a small donation of $1 per day. United Way Week fundraising activities will begin December 12th and continue throughout the week. You will receive more specific information in the blue folders on December 7th, but a sneak peek at the dress-down activities can be found to your right under “Dates to Remember,” and on the attached calendar.

On Friday, December 16th, parents will be invited to join us for our annual Snuggle Up and Read Day (aka Pajama Day) where students, staff, and visitors wear their pajamas to school. Students will also celebrate the winter holiday with their classmates on this day.

Finally, because the holiday season is such an exciting and demanding time for children and adults alike, I ask that you do your best to keep your mudbug(s) focused for the next few weeks. Please visit the Student Progress Center often and review homework and weekly assessments with your child. December 16th is not only the last day of school before the winter holiday, but the end of the 2nd quarter as well, so the grades your child earns in the next few weeks will be reflected in the 2nd nine weeks’ report card. Report cards will be issued January 11th.

In closing, I would like to extend the warmest wishes to our mudbug families for a very joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Foster

Web Sites
http://jpschools.org/st.pierre
http://menus.jppss.k12.la.us/cafeteriaMenus

Ray St. Pierre
Academy
for
Advanced Studies
537 Avenue D
Westwego, LA 70094-4351
PH: 504.347.4739

Dates to Remember
12/5 Saints Dress Down
12/7 Chick-fil-A Night

Week of:
12/12-12/15 United Way Dress Down
Monday—Disney shirt with school pants
Tuesday—Holiday shirt and/or socks
Wednesday—“Way Back”
Thursday—Ugly Sweater

12/14 Cane’s Night
12/15 AR Rewards Celebration
12/16 Snuggle & Read
12/19-1/04 Winter Holidays
1/05 School resumes

Mission Statement
It is the mission of St. Pierre Academy to nurture academically independent learners by challenging students to become critical thinkers, proficient writers, and socially and morally responsible members of the world community.

From The Principal’s Desk

MUDBUG MONTHLY
**PRE-K NEWS - Mrs. Jones & Mrs. Verneuil**

December is going to be a very busy month for Pre-K. We will celebrate the holiday season by decorating our classroom and doing lots of winter crafts. We will learn the letter W and the sight words that go with it.

In Social Studies, we will learn how Christmas is celebrated around the world, along with other winter holidays. The students will also learn about needs and wants. Be on the lookout for our first project where students will decorate a gingerbread house with their families!

In math, we will learn beginning addition skills using picture stories.

We will also be going to see the play *Beauty and the Beast* this month.

Although December will be a short month due to the holidays, it will be packed with activities and learning.

We wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!

**KINDERGARTEN NEWS - Mrs. Grantham & Mrs. LeBlanc**

Mrs. Grantham and Mrs. LeBlanc are looking forward to all the exciting activities coming up. Our annual Teddy Bear Tea will be December 13th at Piccadilly Cafeteria on Clearview Parkway. We can’t wait to see our mudbugs dressed in their fanciest clothes.

Thank you to the parents who attended our field trip to the Audubon Zoo. We had amazing weather and the students had a fantastic time!

The students did a great job disguising their turkeys to avoid Thanksgiving dinner.

We are beginning our unit on Native American tribes. Students are also reading CVC words and segmenting words to improve writing skills. The students are working on writing a short descriptive paragraph consisting of 4 sentences about a picture.

Please review spelling words and letter sounds nightly. Have your child practice writing any letters they are having difficulty with. If it is not already part of your nightly routine, please begin reading with/to your child each night. Please clean out your child’s folder daily. Information about all of our upcoming activities will be sent home in the purple folder.
In CKLA Knowledge, students will listen to fairy tales that have been favorites with children for generations. Students will continue to learn about story elements with this type of fictional reading. They will continue to broaden their vocabulary and expand their writing skills as they practice their narrative writing skills in this domain.

In CKLA Skills, students will continue to decode words, learn about tricky spellings, spelling alternatives, and spelling patterns. This will help them become more fluent as they read and write.

In math, students will be introduced to the idea of a length unit. Students will learn to organize, represent, and interpret data. They will also continue to solve word problems involving addition and subtraction.

In social studies, students will explore the theme of movement, including why people move. Migration, exploration, and settlement will be introduced to help students think more in-depth about the purpose of movement. Lastly, students will examine the major regions of the United States and their defining characteristics.

In science, students will continue to learn how animals provide different levels of parental care for their young.

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**FIRST GRADE NEWS - Mrs. Begault & Mrs. Marquette**

We hope you had a relaxing Thanksgiving break. We sure did! We have lots of great learning planned for December.

Ms. Macko’s drama students treated us to a special performance! Aubrie and Sophie performed for Mrs. McElhannon’s class and then answered questions. They were great! When they are ready, they will perform for Mrs. Brewer’s class too.

Students will begin using their computers more in our third grade curriculum beginning in January. If you haven’t already, please encourage your child to practice their typing skills on typing.com (in Clever). This will help students work more efficiently in class. As always, all workbooks, videos, and study materials for each subject can be found in the Google Classroom. Be sure to check the study guide and homework sheet for what students need to know each week. If any changes are made, we will add a message in the stream.

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**SECOND GRADE NEWS - Mrs. Brewer & Mrs. McElhannon**
We are doing great things in 3rd grade!

In Math, we continue to work on multiplication and division sentences. Please work on division and multiplication fluency daily. We are finishing our Module 4 on Area this month. After this module, we will move onto Module 5 with fractions.

In Science, we will finish our life science bundle with organisms changing over time.

In ELA, we will continue the unit called Louisiana Purchase. The students have finished reading an informational text to learn about the Louisiana Purchase. We will read about the exploration of Lewis and Clark and about the characteristics of pioneers during this time period by reading tall tales.

As for Social Studies, we are completing our learning about the exploration and colonization of Louisiana.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS - Mrs. Covey & Mrs. Kleppner

We hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break! It’s time to get back to work for a few more weeks before our next holiday break.

In Social Studies, the students will continue the unit on the Constitution, voting rights as Americans, the responsibilities of citizenship, as well as Westward Expansion.

In ELA, we will finish up our Greek Mythology unit with in-class Greek Mythology projects. The students are really enjoying learning about all of the gods and goddesses in Greek Mythology.

In Science, the students will finish the scope on Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources and begin the new scope on Natural Processes.

In Math, the students have been enjoying learning how to multiply three and four-digit numbers by one-digit numbers and long division. Next, the students will be learning about angle measurements and plane figures. Remember to have your child practice their multiplication and division facts! Fluency is extremely important in mastering all 4th grade math concepts.

Please do not forget that the money for the World War II Field Trip is due by December 9th. We can’t wait till the field trip on January 6th!!
In ELA, our grade 5 Mudbugs have begun the new unit with the classic C.S. Lewis tale, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and a series of related literary and informational texts to explore the question: How can people understand the same experiences differently? We will express our understanding through a narrative that retells a key scene from the novel from a first person point of view. As usual, we are busy writing, writing, and writing. Just what is "Turkish Delight" anyway? Read along and find out.

In Social Studies, we will continue to study the effects of the European exploration of the New World. Our focus will shift to learning how the exchange of goods between the Old and New World impacted both areas.

In science, we had fun learning about Matter, Changes in Matter, and Mixtures. This month we will finish learning about ecosystems and energy transfer, then we will learn about Earth’s place in the solar system.

In math, we will continue working with fractions. We will be working on fractions as division, multiplication of a whole number by a fraction, and multiplication of a fraction by a fraction.

**Library NEWS - Mrs. Drake**

Thank you Mudbugs for supporting reading and making the Book Fair a huge success? Because of you, every classroom has new books to read. *Games with Grands* was a particularly amazing event bringing all of our families together on campus for the first time in a while. It was really fantastic to see everyone. I would like to offer a special thank you to all of the parent volunteers because I really couldn’t have done it without you! Thanks to your generous donations, Ms. Begault was crowned the Book Fair Super Hero!
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