

Blount's Busy Bee Bulletin

Gladstone Elementary

See you next year! 😊

HOPE
YOU
ALL
HAVE
...



Volume 14
Issue 15

December 13-17,
2021

Important Dates:

January 3rd: School Resumes

January 7th: KidsCan &
Spirit Day (Disney)

January 17th: Dr. Martin Lu-
ther King, Jr. Holiday

February 4th: KidsCan &
Spirit Day (Vintage/ 100th
Day of School!)

February 14th & 21st:
Holidays

Holiday Card Exchange

The cards that the children created and made for our fifth annual holiday card exchange were beautiful! :) I was proud to send them on to the various schools throughout the United States and to the Philippines. It was fun to receive all the different cards and learn about other classrooms and their average weather during the winter. We kept track of the various states on a map as we received them, too. Most of the cards we received were from the Midwest and Eastern part of the United States.



Holiday Challenges

Mystery Graph: Students completed a mystery picture by coloring squares on a grid and following the directions. While many were plain, old squares, some were more complicated and had two colors and different configurations. When it was all finished it was a tree aglow with decorations.

Candy Cane Experiment: We observed candy canes in cold water, warm water, and cooking oil and wrote our observations. We also watched a video about how candy canes are made.

Subject/Predicate: We practiced this important skill with holiday related sentences.

Prefixes/Suffixes: We identified words in holiday sentences that had a prefix, suffix, or both, and then labeled and wrote the definition for each one.

Binary Coding: Students learned about binary coding. This means that all of our letters are seen as a series of zeros and ones. This is the code most used by coders in the real world. We strung red, green, and white beads to make holiday words. It could work as a necklace or maybe even an ornament. I hope your son/daughter had fun explaining it to you! :)

Snowman Glyph: We had our first glyph of the year. A glyph is a graph in picture form. Instead of individual pictures on a graph, each part of the picture represents a choice. Our glyph is a snowman and each part of his face and hat reveals our choices about a specific question about winter. We collected and analyzed the data which you can read more about on Page 5.

Vacation Fun!

Over the vacation, it's important that your child have fun, rest, AND have some learning and reading time so that s/he has a smooth transition back to school. Of course, it's not required, but it is helpful and important to keep some routines in place so that your child's transition back to school after the holidays will be easier and s/he will continue to progress as well!

Also:

- * HONEY Research (on our class webpage)
 - * Do Reflex Math for a few minutes every day.
 - * Animal Report— Start researching your animal for your report.
 - * IXL-Go back and review some prior lessons or try something new.
-

Fluency



Our new goal for the end of Trimester 2 is to read 105 words correct per minute. To achieve this goal, most of us need to increase the number of words per minute by 3.5-4 words per week. While this is not a lot, we still need to provide lots of practice and determination. I know that every student has the potential to meet this goal. Our comprehension and understanding of all types of materials are counting on it!

Minute to Win It Party

- 📦 Snowballs: Students tried to blow ping pong balls into a cup using only a straw.
- 🍭 Candy Cane Hook: Students had to get as many candy canes from one plate to another using only a candy cane in their mouth to "hook" the other candy canes.
- 🍫 Chopped Cocoa: Using two straws (similar to chopsticks), students had to move marshmallows from one plate to another.
- 🎄 Christmas Tree: Using only one hand, students built a tree with green cups. The base was seven cups and each layer decreased by one cup.
- 🍷 Suck It Up: Using a straw, students had to "suck up" red and green M & M's and move them from plate to plate.



Thursday Fun!

We did start the day finishing up an assessment, but then after that, the fun began! :) First, we were the lucky audience for the first grade's rehearsal for their holiday program. They sang *Frosty the Snowman*, *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and *Jingle Bells*.

One of our third grade traditions is to have a holiday rotation. Our room drew a cute "puppet" reindeer. We watched the ArtHub and followed along and they turned out great! So cute! Mrs. Ekstrand taught the class how to make old-fashioned pin pictures. It will look great in your window. The students played holiday Bingo with Ms. Goddard, too.

In the afternoon we had our Minute It to Win It party (See the previous page for descriptions.), drank hot chocolate, had some delicious cookies, and had our book exchange. What a super, fun day we had! ;)

By popular demand here is the hot chocolate recipe (family size-crockpot): 6 cups of milk, 1 1/2 cups of heavy whipping cream, 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla, 1 can of condensed milk, 2 cups of chocolate chips. Let simmer and enjoy! ;)

Thank You!

I love our school and I am so blessed to be your child's teacher. Thank you so much for all the special gifts for Christmas and my birthday. I so appreciate it, and I am so glad I am a "Happy Rock" teacher.



Snowman Glyph

Winter is my favorite season.

Yes (orange nose)	18
No (brown nose)	4
Range	$18 - 4 = 14$
Mode	-----
Median	$18 + 4 = 22 \div 2 = 11$
Mean	$22 \div 2 = 11$

On a cold day, I'd like to have . . .

Soup (eyes looking up)	3
Hot chocolate (goofy eyes)	17
Something else (looking straight ahead)	2
Range	$17 - 2 = 15$
Mode	-----
Median	2 3 17
Mean	$22 \div 3 = 7.3$

The winter the weather I like the best is. . .

Snow (pink earmuffs)	12
Rain (blue earmuffs)	7
Wind (green earmuffs)	3
Range	$12 - 3 = 9$
Mode	-----
Median	3 7 12
Mean	$22 \div 3 = 7.3$

In winter, I like to. . .

Play in the snow (red star)	7
Snuggle in my pajamas (yellow star)	9
Drink hot cocoa (pink star)	6
Range	$9 - 6 = 3$
Mode	-----
Median	6 7 9
Mean	$22 \div 3 = 7.3$

My birthday is in December, January, or February.

Yes (black hat)	7
No (brown hat)	15
Range	$15 - 7 = 8$
Mode	-----
Median	$7 + 15 = 22 \div 2 = 11$
Mean	$22 \div 2 = 11$

Accelerated Reader Update!

Our total for the 2021 school year is. . .

2,422,377 !

Newsletter Raffle Question: Week of December 13, 2021

*Turn in this form on or before Friday, January 7, 2022

*Tell me about your vacation. What did you do? Where did you go? What did you get for Christmas? What did you read? Who did you visit or see? Tell me anything else you would like to share. Use the back if you need more room. **Show your editing marks for all sentences, please.**