

December 16, 2016

# Lil' Dragon Fire

## Important Information



**12/21** Christams Tea at Adrian Bank  
**12/23** Early Dismissal; 12:30 Elementary  
**12/23/16** No After School Program!!  
**12/24/16-1/2/7** No School!  
**1/3/17** Classes Resume  
**1/16/17** No School - Martin Luther King Day  
**1/18/16** Mid Trimester 2

### **Reminder about transportation changes:**

If you are calling with a transportation change for your child, please remember to call *before* 2pm. This will give us plenty of time to contact bus drivers and teachers so that no student ends up in the wrong place.

If you are sending a note to the school, please include the date and a phone number where you can be reached in the case of an emergency. This will help us be able to contact you quickly if we need to do so.

### **Christmas Break**

There is an early release on Friday, December 23rd. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 at the elementary school. There will be no classes December 24th thru January 2nd. Classes will resume January 3rd. Have a wonderful winter break!

### **Winter Break**



### **Keeping Kids Learning During the Winter Break**

The holidays are a great time for parents to spend quality time with their children. Why not make it educational as well? Below is a list of activities and tips for keeping your children learning during the Holiday break.

- \* Play world games like Scrabble or Bananagrams.
- \* Do jigsaw puzzles.
- \* If you are travelling, have your child trace your route on a map.
- \* Have your child help you plan a meal in the kitchen. They can help make the grocery list as well as the budget for the meal.
- \* Take them to the Library and let them find books on topics that interest them.
- \* Have them read a book that has a corresponding movie, and then watch the movie together. Have them compare and contrast the movie and the book.

### **Just for Fun!**

#### **Spanish holiday words to practice at home:**

- Feliz Navidad - Merry Christmas
- Estrella - star
- Feliz año nuevo - Happy New Year
- Arbol de Navidad - Christmas Tree
- Noche Buena - Christmas Eve
- Nieve - Snow



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# Nurse Notes

## **December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month**

*Keep your child's holiday toy time safe!*

Sharp or pointed edges, small removable parts and even pull strings longer than 7 inches can pose a healththreat to small children. Do you know what toys are safe for your children?

We're proud to celebrate Safe Toys and Gifts Month along with The National Safe Kids Campaign and the National Safety Council. Take a look at some tips for selecting safe toys for children:

- \* Consider the child's age, interests and skill level. Look for quality design and construction, and follow age and safety recommendations on labels.
- \* Use a small parts tester to determine whether small toys may present a choking hazard to children under age 3. Small parts testers can be purchased at toy or baby specialty stores. Or, you can use the cardboard core of a toilet paper roll - if a toy can pass through, it is too small for young children and may cause them to choke if swallowed.
- \* Avoid toys with sharp points or edges, toys that produce loud noises, and projectiles (such as darts).
- \* Avoid toys with strings, straps or cords longer than 7 inches that may pose a risk for strangulation for young children.
- \* Avoid electrical toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- \* Avoid cap guns that use caps that can be ignited by the slightest friction and can cause serious burns.

### **Consider the Facts!**

- \* Falls and choking cause most toy-related deaths and injuries in children. Choking alone causes one third of all toy-related deaths - most often from balloons.
- \* Children 4 years old and younger account for almost half of all toy-related injuries and almost all deaths.
- \* Children younger than age 3 are at the greatest risk of choking because they tend to put objects - especially toys - in their mouths.

Toys can sometimes be recalled for safety reasons. Check the National Safe Kids Campaign website [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) for updates and information on recent toy recalls.

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## **Suggested Holiday Books to Read Aloud with Your Student**

1. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss
2. *The Nutcracker* by Susan Jeffers
3. *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski
4. *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree* by Gloria Houston
5. *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg
6. *Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus* by Francis P. Church
7. *Olive the Other Reindeer* by J. Otto Seibold and Vivian Walsh
8. *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
9. *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement C. Moore
10. *The Legend of Poinsettia* by Tomie dePaola



