**C:\Users\CVollmar\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\3L0HCJAC\snowflake-6166047[1].jpgWinter BreakC:\Users\CVollmar\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\3L0HCJAC\snowflake-6166047[1].jpg**

First and foremost, we want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. We know that many families travel over the break or are spending time with friends and family. There are many activities, questions, and discussions you can have with your child to keep them sharp on their skills during this winter break.

Students are to complete 3 journal entries in their notebook (but can do more) about things they are doing over break. Students can try and write a paragraph (opening sentence, 3 details, and a closing sentence). This can be about a place they went to, activity they did, their favorite thing about the break, family that came to town, etc. You can reiterate learned spelling patterns correctly in their words, editing for capital letters and punctuation, and expanding their sentences to include more details.

I recommend students utilize our class website for online resources to practice skills, as well as well as old homework for tasks. For Spelling, students can review past lists from Spelling City. Students should continue to read daily and discuss/write about their reading.

In Social Studies, discussions can be about how things have changed over time and how different inventions have had large impacts on our way of life (this will be discussed more in January). For example, what was life like without an oven, stove, car, roads, etc? What inventions do we use on a daily basis? We will also look into how Hoboken and NJ have changed over time. If you are driving, you can discuss how different towns/cities are similar/look different (rural, suburbs, cities) and why they think this could be (we will discuss this after break but it would be great to have students thinking about this topic already).

When students are reading over break, they should continue focusing on being able to retell their stories and the main idea through the 5 W’s of reading *who, what, when, why,* where. In class, we learned about the 5 finger retell with *Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then* or *First, Next, Then, After, Last*. For Writing, I would like students to keep up their persuasive/opinion skills by supporting their ideas with details and evidence (OREO: O-opinion, R-reason, E-example, O-opinion restated). This concept can be reiterated through discussions such as where to do for dinner, what activity to do that day, what book was their favorite, what movie to watch that night, etc.

For Math, we will continue learning more about Place Value and Mental Math. We will continue to learn to compare numbers, mentally add and subtract groups of ten, and writing numbers in different forms to help us solve problems. It is important to keep math skills sharp. One easy game to play, other than online games, is a game called Popcorn (also explained on my website). Students can use a stuffed animal, ball, or any item to toss to someone. When you toss the item to a person, you pick the number they to start counting up from. For example, I toss the ball to a friend, then say *245*, and they have to say *245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251* until I say POPCORN which means stop counting. Then they will pass the ball to someone else and pick the number they need to start counting up from. You can practice this game counting up or down and extend to more difficult numbers and to different number patterns. There are also many games/activities to play with a deck of cards (also explained on our website). \*\*Students can also make their own set of addition and subtraction flashcards using index cards. Flashcards should be reviewed daily and over time, students should become quick and independent in solving all their equations, including solving for the missing addend (ex. 9+\_=15, 13-\_=9)\*\*

\*Students can also make sight word flashcards which can be found on our class website under Extra Activities and Ideas, Word Study. These can be reviewed daily in small increments to help with automaticity of words and spelling.

We wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday and New Year!

Mrs. Vollmar, Mrs. Santelli, and Ms. Kulp