



Greetings Skyline Families,

I hope that December is off to an incredible start for you all. December at school is an exciting month full of festivities, fun, and pure childhood joy! While we do all we can to keep routines and consistency to our days we also recognize that sneaking in a little fun and celebration for the holidays this time of year is much needed! We are so fortunate to spend our days with your children. They are incredible young people who we know will change the world and we're just so happy to be a part of their journeys toward success and opportunities! Thank you every day for sharing each of them with us.

I want to connect with you all around some words you might have heard your little one talking about this year. Have you heard the words Daily 5 at all as you listen or talk about the school day? I know I love leaning in with my little one and finding out all about Daily Five in his classroom. If you haven't heard your young one talk about Daily 5 ask him or her about it. The Daily 5 is a literacy structure our staff have put into place throughout our school Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. It's the structure to our literacy time in every classroom. Now you might hear Daily 3 or Daily 5 but the idea really is to start talking literacy and literacy learning with your little one.

In a nutshell, the Daily Five is a way of structuring the literacy block so that every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research-based tasks are ones that will have the greatest impact on student reading and writing achievement and growth, as well as help foster children who love to read and write and find joy in doing both of these arts. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while the classroom teacher provides focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

When the Daily 5 is up and running smoothly, students will be engaged in five different literary components. These are the 5 components:

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work

There are very specific behavior expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. Starting back in September each of our classrooms have been working, teaching, modeling, and getting very clear on what the expectations for each component are within each classroom. These expectations are necessary for ensuring that engagement levels within the classroom are high to ensure that learning is at its' highest as well!

One thing you'll notice that may be a change for you is a direct decrease in the number of worksheets your child brings home. While worksheets keep students busy, they don't typically result in the high level of learning and love for literacy we envision as a part of our Skyline Balanced Literacy Vision. Instead, your child will be taught to select "Good Fit Books, Just Right books," or books they can read with success, understand and are interested in, that they will read during Daily 5. They will be spending most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading.

Providing our students with the strongest literacy foundation possible is one of our most important building blocks to your child's future. We take this work extremely seriously and are putting a lot of effort into designing our Daily 5 structures throughout the school. As a staff we are continuing to spend time in professional learning about tasks and activities that make the greatest impact for our young readers and writers. We are using a variety of resources and core materials to meet students where they are and take them where they never knew possible! The world of literacy is an exciting one and we hope that you will join us on our literacy adventures within each classroom throughout the year.

If volunteering during our literacy block is something you are interested in, we would love to have you join our classrooms, invest in our students' success and be a part of our team! Please connect with your child's classroom teacher to volunteer!

Skyline Families, I wish you a warm, cozy, wonderful month of December. May visions of sugar plums dance in your heads as we each live through our young ones during this very special time of the year. There is something so very magical this time of year. Happy Holidays to You All!

December Smiles,

Mrs. Thomas





Day		
Monday, Dec. 16	Holiday Accessories:	Buttons, bracelets, necklaces, scarves, mittens, barrettes, clips, fun, festive hats, etc.
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Holiday Socks, leggings,	Fun socks/leggings/shoes that showcase the spirit of the season
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Holiday shirts,	Spirit gear says it all...
Thursday, Dec. 19	Holiday Everything!	Accessories, Socks, Leggings, Shirts, sweatshirts...it's a full on Holiday Bonanza Today!
Friday, Dec. 20	PAJAMAS,	Wear your pajamas but make sure to bring good shoes for PE and recess and make sure to bring your coat for those cold recess times!

December Events

- 12/05 Holiday Concert Grades 1-2
 1st grade- 6:00 PM
 2nd grade- 7:00 PM
 PTA Popcorn Day
- 12/11 2nd Grade Field Trip to the Nutcracker
 ELL Coffee Chat 9:30-10:00 AM
 PTA Game Truck/Pizza Lunch
 PTA Holiday Make & Take/Holiday Shop 6:30-8:00
- 12/12 PTA School Store
- 12/16-12/20 **HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK!**
- 12/17 Skyline PTA Famous Dave's BBQ night
- 12/19 PTA Popcorn
- 12/23-1/3 **Winter Break- No School**

We've decked our halls with the lost and found!

Please come by and see if your child's coat is here!
We will be donating the items left during winter break.

