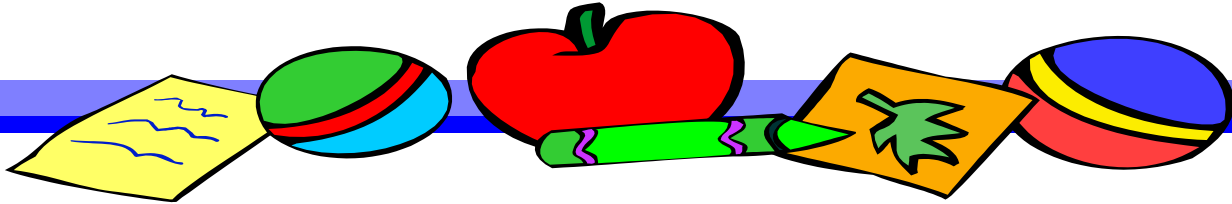


**12-17-11**

"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn" (<http://www.thestrong.org/about-play/play-quotes>).



### Last Week

First of all, **THANK YOU** for joining us for our holiday program last week. Thank you for bringing a treat to share. The students all did so well-we had never been able to practice in the auditorium before, so it was quite the experience for all of us. I knew that some students might get a little scared on stage-with the lights on them, it's hard to even distinguish the faces of the individuals in the audience-so, it is a lot to expect of four-year-olds. But, it was a fun night and the students were able to show you the songs they've been practicing. I was so proud of them-they did so well! Thank you for all that you did to help make the concert a special celebratory occasion for all of us.

Last week, the readers for our afternoon class were unable to join us due to some holiday program preparations of their own. The students and I spent time on Monday and Tuesday preparing for our concert and we even visited Mrs. Derrick's classroom to watch her students perform for us and to practice performing for her students. On Wednesday, we finally had a "normal" day again and the students enjoyed playing with the new blocks, the kitchen/market in the dramatic play area, and the corn in the sensory table. One of the biggest hits this week continued to be the ginger/cinnamon play dough that I made and brought-students were quite the little bakers in the classroom with that. Listening to Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? By Eric Carle was also a popular choice, as well as these linking manipulatives I have.



### This Week:

This week, changes to the classroom include: ---Pajama Day is on Thursday, 12/22. That day will also be an early dismissal day for the afternoon class (at 12:45) and the students and I will have our own little party in the classroom that day. It may even consist of watching The Polar Express for part of our day-I haven't quite decided because I NEVER have students or children watch movies or television-however-it is a fun movie and would allow us to all just have a little party/have a relaxing pajama day.

Please note that I will not be sending out book bags this Thursday due to the holidays. Instead, students will receive a book from me as a present. Each student's book will be wrapped and I ask that students wait to open their book until they are home with you (remember: these books are yours to keep). I will resume sending the weekly book bags out again when the students return to school. I would like to start sending these out at the beginning of the week to have them be returned to me by Thursday. When I send them out on Thursdays to be returned on Mondays, students who are absent on Thursday do not get a chance to have their book bag.

The holiday break is from 12/23-1/1. School resumes again on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Upcoming dates in January to remember include January 18, which is an early dismissal day at 12:45 and January 19, which is the 4K Family Fun Night at Starr Elementary School from 4:30-7:00.

