



# Altoona Intermediate School

## Altoona, Wisconsin



## December 2021 Newsletter

### From the Principal, Andrea Steffen:

Hello AIS Families!

In AIS we pride ourselves on educating the "whole" child. We have a great academic system in place. In addition to being awarded the National Blue Ribbon last year, this year our school report card again reported our student achievement as "Significantly Exceeding Expectations!" Our students are learning and growing academically. They are also growing emotionally/behaviorally. Our students met their November behavioral goal, Kind Words and Actions, and celebrated before Thanksgiving break with an extra recess, PJ day, hot cocoa and a movie with a theme around accepting differences and being kind.

Students completed their Social Emotional screener/questionnaire and the data we collected from them was interesting! One strength we noted in our school is that students feel a sense of belonging. That report made us feel happy since belonging is so important! The area that students identified as an area they struggle with is regulating their emotions. Therefore this is the focus of our next behavioral goal. In addition, we will be teaching all strategies and skills to help regulate so that they can better pull themselves out of a bad mood, stay relaxed even if others around them are angry, stay calm even if they are angry. Be sure to ask your child about our school's progress toward our December goal, Shine @ AIS By Being Your Best, and what strategies they are learning to regulate their emotions, another important skill on their journey to adulthood.

Look at page 2 for the 12 Days of Celebration and Secret Santas! AIS teachers will provide additional information.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a relaxing break filled with plenty of yummy treats!



**December 23-31 Winter Break — No School**

## Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are excited to bring on the Holiday spirit by having our students participate in 12 days of celebrations. On the last 4 days, students will draw for their "Secret Santa" and provide clues to who they are. The day before break, students will reveal themselves to their secret santa and exchange their \$1.00 gift. We plan to pool the gifts and allow students to choose which gift they want. Please send in your \$1.00 gift ahead of time, OR send \$1.00 and we will purchase the gifts. If you would like to sponsor a child by sending in additional funds for us to purchase gifts, that would be wonderful.



Thank you ~ AIS Teachers

## AIS 12 Days of Christmas

<u>Day/Date</u>		<u>Celebration</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Tuesday, December 7</u>	<u>Charlie Brown/PJ Day</u> <u>Watch Charlie Brown Christmas movie</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Wednesday December 8</u>	<u>Wednesday Winter Wonderland</u> <u>Wear BLUE and White (Sparkles Optional)</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Thursday, December 9</u>	<u>Stuffed Animal Day</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Friday, December 10</u>	<u>Flannel Friday</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Monday, December 13</u>	<u>Crazy Sock Day</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Tuesday, December 14</u>	<u>Tie Tuesday (Wear ties or scarves; show respect)</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Wednesday, December 15</u>	<u>Holiday Glitz and Glam Day (Sweater)</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>Thursday, December 16</u>	<u>Grinch Day</u> <u>Day 1 of Secret Santa: Give your secret person one clue.</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>Friday, December 17</u>	<u>Random Acts of Kindness Day</u> <u>Day 2 of Secret Santa: Give your secret person clue #2.</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Monday, December 20</u>	<u>Favorite Picture Book Day/Hat Day</u> <u>Day 3 of Secret Santa: Give your secret person clue #3</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Tuesday December 21</u>	<u>School Spirit Day</u> <u>Day 4 of Secret Santa: Give your secret person the final clue.</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>Wednesday, December 22</u>	<u>Class Party/Red &amp; Green Day</u> <u>Day 5 of Secret Santa: \$1.00 gift exchange</u>

# What are 4th Graders Studying?

## Colonial Times ELA Unit

By Layla, Rhett, and Mason

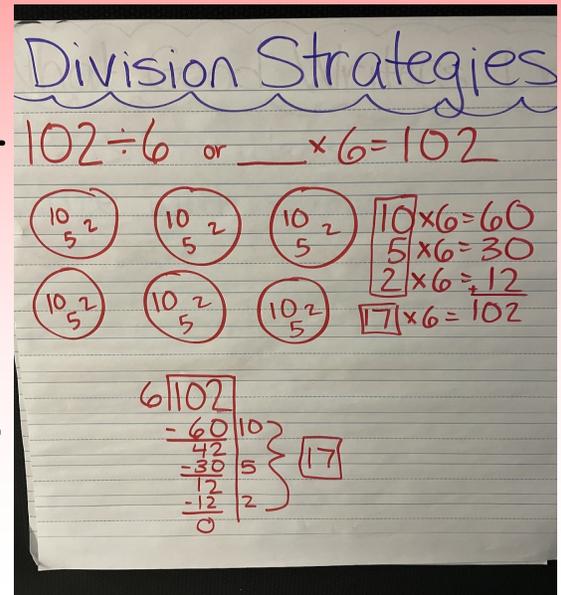
In fourth grade we started our Colonial Book Clubs. Students go to different classes and read and we write about events that happened in the book, one of three historical fictions about colonial times. We also read the book, If You Lived in Colonial Times and learned that in colonial times only boys were allowed to go to school. And if you didn't bring firewood to school you would have to sit in the coldest part of the room. If you were caught not paying attention in class you would be called a dunce and wear the dunce cap. We read Pilgrim Cat and we made a story about when Faith got sick and we did it from different people's perspectives. We also learned about the point of view that the first person uses I, me, and my etc. Second person uses you and yours. Third person uses they, them, he, and she. Limited is when we only have one person's thoughts and omniscient where you can hear every person's thoughts.



# Division Strategies

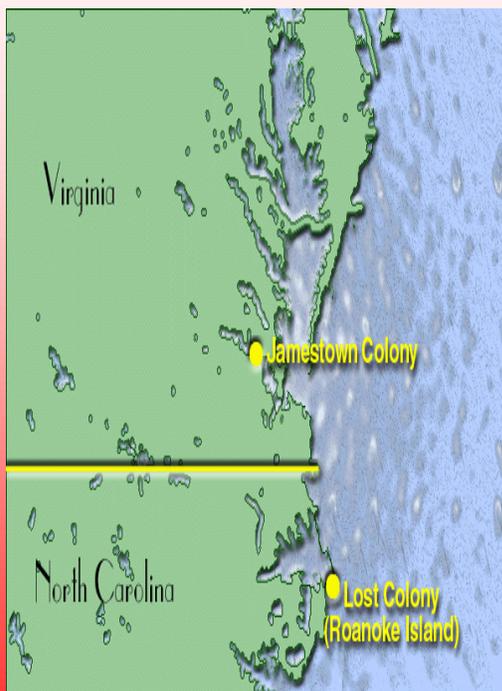
By Elodie, Kennedy, & Kaleb

We are learning division strategies like the big seven and also drawing groups of that number and the box strategie. Also you can also use multiplication to help realize the similarities between multiplication and division. We are also learning about what to do with a remainder in a word problem. You can either ignore when you are giving something. You can't give more than what you have. Sometimes you have to keep the remainder because somebody or something needs an extra.



# What 4th graders are doing in Social Studies

By Kinsey, Claire, Luci, Hadley ,and Ray



4th graders are learning about the colonists, and the colonies. We have been focusing on Plymouth, Jamestown and Roanoke and if they were successful and how the colony started, or why they started the colony. We are also learning about colonial laws and comparing our lives to their lives. We are reading colonial books too.

# What have 5th Graders been up to?

## 5th grade math

By: Averie in Mrs. Scott's Class

Throughout November, we have been learning about fractions!! To help us better understand fractions, we play different fraction games such as roll around the clock and fraction tracks. Roll Around the Clock is played by rolling two dice that have little stickers that show fractions, then add or subtract what the two dice show. To finish the turn, we move the little counter to the fraction on the clock. See who has the greatest fraction and is the winner of the round.

Fraction Tracks is played when students roll a dice and whatever the fraction is and then roll and record it on the track. When students get to one student will take the counter off and that is equivalent to one point. At the end of the game whoever has the most counters win's the game. We can also play the math games we have learned online too in Savvas Realize.



## The Holiday Memories Contest

By: Maddy in Mrs. Scott's class

This year in the Altoona schools, many classes are participating in the Leader Telegram Holiday Memories contest. This is a contest about writing an essay up to five hundred words or less about a holiday memory of choice. For example, Thanksgiving or Hanukkah if you celebrate those holidays. Christmas is mostly used, and you cannot use a birthday or a school break. Every person in grades one-twelve who participates has a chance of winning twenty five dollars if their Holiday Memory gets chosen. If an adult wins they will win a year's subscription to Leader Telegram. For a better chance of winning try to be very descriptive. For more details, go to the Leader Telegram website.

# 5th-grade Biography Unit

## Eleanor Myren in Mrs. Scott's class

Students in 5th-grade classes are in the middle of a biography unit. Students choose their biography to read. Each student also has a packet along with their book. The packet includes areas to fill out the information about the person. Then, students will create a poster with a poem, it's called "Who Am I". students will also make up ten clues about their person and will order them from very un-descriptive to very descriptive. To get an extra grade, students can add another project on something else their person has done. So far, students in Mrs. Scott's class have their books done and are reviewing a second source then they would write the poem using the information. We will also be presenting our projects in front of the class next week. That concludes the unit about biographies.



Mrs. Scott's amazing students!

