**SHARING**

Sharing this week will be Children’s Choice.

 For sharing the week after vacation, children can share a favorite gift.

**SWIMMING**

Older students will be swimming today. Younger students will swim on Wednesday. Older students will swim the day we return from vacation. I know that will be tricky to remember!

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

 Thank you for having your children here so promptly on Tuesday night! It gave us the chance to get off to a calm and focused start.

**FAMILY BREAKFAST**

 The school will host the 21st annual family breakfast on Thursday morning beginning at 8:30. Your child should be handing you an invitation today.

**THANKS**

 Once again, I’d like to thank Kari Hendrich for volunteering to come into our classroom each week to share her musical knowledge, creativity, and talent with us. The students have had the opportunity to sing, to dance, to learn how music works, and to write a song. We will miss Kari next semester!

 We also owe a thanks to Valisa Higman. She assisted the students in completing the artwork on the crankie that accompanied the song for the performance. Thank you, Valisa!

**SPELLING**

Due to the short week, we won’t have spelling.

**ASSESSMENTS**

 We’ll be working on classroom assessments this week. These are the tests that measure your child’s growth and progress and allow me to complete the report card and plan instruction for the rest of the year.

**VISITING ART TEACHER**

 Students had the opportunity to do some printmaking last week with Debbie Harris, the district’s art specialist. This was new to them, and they seemed to enjoy the experience.

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS**

 It would be great if third and fourth graders who plan to participate in this year’s Battle of the Books competition did some reading over vacation. We’ll start practicing shortly after school resumes. Practices go much better when students have read the books.

**NO SCHOOL**

 Vacation will start at 3:10 on Thursday, December 21st. There isn’t school for students on Friday, December 22nd. Staff will use that day for in-service and to work on report cards. Classes will resume at 8:30 on Monday, January 8, 2018.

 I hope you and your family have a great holiday vacation.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**