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Dear Parents,

We have been reading about the first Thanksgiving and discussing what we are thankful for. Your children shared that they are thankful for their moms and dads, little brothers, their friends, their grandparents, food, toys, and their homes. I'm amazed at how sensitive they are to all that they have.

In honor of that first Thanksgiving, and in recognition of all of the people and things in our lives that we are thankful for, we will have our First Grade Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 20th. We will join with our friends from the other first grade classes, just like the Pilgrims and Native Americans did many years ago. Our class will represent the Native Americans. In class we will make headbands and vest to wear during the feast and decorate tablecloths to use during the feast. **We will need some helpers in Nov 11th, 12th, and 18th. If you have extra time please consider signing up or send me a note to let me know that you will be coming in.**

Our class will make **pies** for the feast on the morning of Wednesday, November 19th. The children will be peeling and slicing apples, mixing pumpkin, and rolling out pie crust. To make this event successful I will need some help from you. We will need apples and cans of pumpkin. **We will also need volunteers** to make the piecrust then send them in wrapped in plastic wrap. Last, but certainly not least, **I will need 3 volunteers to help make the pies** on the morning of November 19th. THANK YOU in advance for your help and contributions. We are going to have a great time preparing for the feast and participating in it. This is really an enjoyable activity. The children have a wonderful time rolling out the piecrust, peeling apples, and mixing pumpkin. **I will put out a sign up sheet for these and other supplies during our conferences. Please look for the sign up when you arrive for you conference.** I look forward to sharing some of this special time with you. **Thank you also to Mrs. Martin in the cafeteria for baking pies for us.**

In **Science** we have been learning about living and non-living things. We learned that all living things need food, water, air, and sun to survive. We will be learning about the characteristics of living things (they breath, move on their own, grow and change, and they reproduce). We will begin to learn about extinction in December.

In **Social Studies** we will spend time learning about Veterans Day through books and short videos. If you or any one in your family has served our country please send in information telling their name, the branch of service, and the years they served. If you

have a picture of your family member I would love to give your child to share.

In **Math** we continue to learn many new concepts and to practice familiar ones. We will continue to practice counting by 1's, 5's, 10's. In each of these counting patterns we are counting to 120. As you can imagine counting above 100 is sometimes challenging for some of the children. Continued practice at home would be helpful. We have learned several strategies to add numbers to 20. We have learned to add doubles, learned what a "turn-around-fact is, and what a "fact family" is. As you have probably from our homework we have begun the concept of subtraction and will continue to practice this throughout the year.

In **Reading** we have worked on each of the consonants, and practiced short vowel sounds. We have been working on two letter blends and on digraphs (ch, th). We have used many stories to develop the concepts of summarizing - beginning, middle, and end. We discuss cause and effect, main idea and details. We have begun to learn about the differences between realistic fiction and fantasy stories.

In **Writing** we have continued to work on spacing, correct letter-form, periods, and stretching words to listen for each of the letter sounds. I have introduced the concept of **focus**- the story all relates to the same idea- and the children are demonstrating a good understanding of this concept. We have worked on rereading sentences to see if they make sense and adding details to our stories. It is a pleasure to read your childrens' writing and to see the growth they have made.

As you know we have a **class website**. When you have an opportunity please take a look at what is happening in our classroom.

Mrs. MacAdams

Happy Thanksgiving