

Kristin's Class Newsletter

January 5, 2009 Clara Barton Open School Kristinlorna@comcast.net 763-533-1092

Dear Families,

Just when I got used to being on vacation, it's all over! I had a busy, relaxing, festive and cozy couple of weeks at home with my family. I bet you did too.

January at school tends to be lovely- kids are happy to be back in the routine of school and are already feeling confident in new skills.

Last Week (last year!)

Barton Snowman Works was a roaring success! Everyone got a chance to try several jobs on our assembly line. It was fun to see which kids really enjoyed working on the snowmen as part of a team. I also noticed that some students really didn't like it much, found assembly line work repetitive and are glad that they don't have to do it every day. ("Go to college" was my advice to those kids. Well, it's my advice to all kids, but still...)

The experience was memorable, and the product couldn't have been cuter. Hope the snowmen arrived safely and are holding doors open or papers down all over Minneapolis. Thanks to everyone who helped, especially my husband AJ, who helped me do the "process engineering." Steve Delapp wrote the paychecks, Vic Nelson was the human resources guy and ran the snowman store.

Andrea Breen and Cheryl Hornstien were valuable line supervisors. Kevin Kinneavy was the official photographer for the whole event. Pictures are posted on the room 102 website.

This week:

We'll be thinking about how photographs are made. There's a lot to it, but anyone can do it! We'll read about Wilson Bentley, who invented a method for photographing snow crystals. We'll also look at portrait photography and take some of our own pictures.

The project:

We sent the project information home with the snowmen on that last Friday so that you could have some time to think it over. We'll keep sending spelling words home and continue book clubs, but I'm suspending other homework for the month, so that kids can spend their homework energy on the demonstration projects. I'm hoping that kids come to school on Monday with their project ideas in hand. If not, Tuesday or Wednesday is fine. Remember kindergarten families, your participation is optional but very welcome.

Thanks for all of your support! Happy New Year! Kristin

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