

Kristin's Class Newsletter

Clara Barton Open School January 20, 2009 kristinlorna@comcast.net 763-533-1092

Dear Families,

What a big day Monday will be! I have been glued to the TV this weekend, watching coverage of the pre-inaugural events. The whistle stop tour! The Lincoln Memorial Concert! Oh my!

I don't wish I was in Washington DC, though, because I would rather be at Barton celebrating with my students. We've talked about the importance of this inauguration in particular- the very first African American president! Wow! Naturally, the kids are taking the news calmly. Their world is multicultural, they can't imagine a time when kids went to segregated schools. They are used to difference and find it absolutely normal. Isn't that wonderful?

Still, it's a special day and excitement is in the air. We'll have an all school morning meeting first thing, and bring our hopes and dreams for the new president to become part of a big, big mural. We'll have our normal Monday routine, but at 10:30 will go to the commons to watch the inauguration ceremony in community with our school. Can't wait! Our recess and lunch will be late, but that's ok.

In the afternoon, we're planning a "hallway party" with an inaugural ball (chicken dance and cha-cha slide, etc.), an "inaugural banquet" (we thought fresh fruit would be both O shaped and a nice CHANGE). We'll also have a "commemorative art project."

I bet the kids will remember this special day in history.

The rest of the week...

Is so short! WE'll be doing some assessments and getting ready for presentation and conferences. I'll send both schedules home for a reminder. If you haven't signed up yet, there are lots of openings!

The Microwave is Broken!

I don't have a way for kids to heat food at school, so it's time to break out the thermos. Oh well. It was fun while it lasted- and I guess we're looking for a new microwave.

The Miracle of the Coat Hall

Last winter (during the great headlice invasion of 2008) I had to make more room in the coathall, so that the big blue bags would fit. I had the room taken apart and was in a big old mess. David Donisch, Rudy's dad surveyed the situation, and said gravely, "I think you need to go **up**." During winter break, the Donisch family came to school, and spent HOURS taking out the old slanty plastic shelving and replacing it with the most substantial, safest, biggest, tallest, and grooviest storage shelving that I have ever seen. EVER! I still don't know how to thank the Donisch family- the new order in the coathall has made new order possible all over the classroom. So- free tours of the coathall are available, and I'm tickled to death over the coat hall. Thanks, Dave, Karla, Rudy and Aubrey!

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