

From the Principal

November 12, 2007

Happy Thanksgiving

On behalf of the certificated and classified staff, I sincerely wish each and every family a Happy Thanksgiving. We continue to be thankful for the support and concern provided to this school by Springer families. Sometimes we move forward in our busy day and do not take the time to reflect and appreciate the learning community we have constructed. Each family, in their own way, gives a great deal to support the growth and development of their child and in turn all the children who attend our school. Let us just take a minute and say to our community "we appreciate your belief in what we are doing.!"

Parent Teacher Conferences

The close of Trimester #1 is upon us. This means our Parent Teacher Conferences are about to begin. The conferences will take place on *Monday, November 19th* and *Tuesday, November 20th*. Each teacher is now confirming conference times that were scheduled during BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT. Please be sure to mark your calendar for your scheduled appointment.

The key to a successful conference is two - way communication. By exchanging information, parents and teachers build a cooperative relationship for the entire school year. Since time for discussion and planning is at a premium, consider preparing objectives for the conference time. Spend a few minutes having a pre -conference with your child about the successes and the challenges of Trimester #1. Take notes on this information and pass your child's thoughts along to the teacher.

In addition, based upon your child's information, develop goals for the remainder of the school year. The following preparation questions may help you and your child gather information that can later be used following the conference in establishing realistic and meaningful goals. By building goals together, ownership for the goals become your child's targets for success.

Here are some questions to consider:

- * What are my child's strengths? What are areas of needed growth?
- * How does my child behave in the classroom? What time of day, kind of activity, or particular subject matter cause him/her to fully engage?
- * Does my child take risks while learning in the classroom?
- * How are my child's relationships with other students in the classroom and on the playground?
- * What can we as parents do at home to support learning in the classroom?

The staff of Springer Elementary School fully appreciate the active roles our parents play in their child's education. Thanks for taking the time out of your day to prepare and attend the upcoming conference!