Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe this will be our last newsletter in 2014! We hope you enjoy the holidays and spend quality time with family! We will see everyone in 2015!

There will be no homework this week!

Phonics/Penmanship:
There will be no new words introduced this week. Please continue to review all introduced words at home.

Math
Last week we began our new unit on Geometry and Fractions. We studied and sorted shapes by thinking about their attributes. We have learned that shapes have non-defining and defining attributes. What really makes a shape is its defining attributes. For example, if you were to ask for someone to pick out the blue shape (from a set with a blue triangle, blue circle, and a blue square) which shape would you be talking about? It is hard to know. Then ask them for the shape with 3-verticies (corners), -triangle. Which shape would you be talking about and how do you know? Here are some of defining attributes we identified: number of sides, vertices (corners), angles. Non-defining attributes would be its size, color pattern, texture, and position.

There is quite a bit of vocabulary introduced in the unit. Please see below for some of the vocabulary that has been introduced so far.

Social Studies:
We have begun a new unit about Communities and their members. We will talk about different types of communities (town, city, country) and what we might see in those types of communities and community helpers. We will learn about a shelter, and we will continue to discuss wants vs. needs. For example, we need medicine and we want a new toy. We are excited to begin this new unit, oh what fun we will have!

Note: If someone in your family is a community helper, please let your child's teacher know. **We are looking to have a few real community helpers speak with our classes about what you do for the community and how you help.** Some community helpers that we will be talking about, but are not limited to are: a firefighter, a nurse, and a policeman. Please let us know how you help the community!

Respectfully yours,
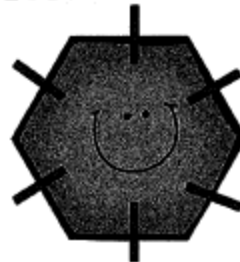Debbie Jacobs
Allison Cabezas
Maureen Rojee

Equal
The sides are the exact same length.

A square has 4 **equal** sides.

Side
The outside edge of a shape.

A hexagon has 6 **sides**.

Vertices
Where sides meet the corners.

A triangle has 3 **vertices**.

Curved
The sides are rounded.

A circle has 1 **curved** side.

Slanted
The sides
are on
a slope.

A trapezoid has 2 **slanted** sides.

Straight
No bends
or
curves.

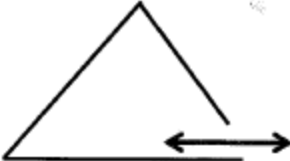A trapezoid has 2 **straight** sides.

Long
A far distance
from end
to end.

A rectangle has 2 **long** sides.

Short
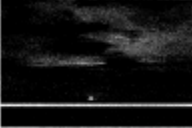A small distance
from end
to end.

A rectangle has 2 **short** sides.

Open

A shape cannot be open.

Closed

A shape must be closed

Horizontal Line

Parallel to the horizon.
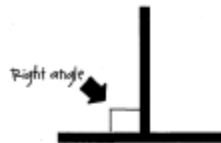
It lies down.

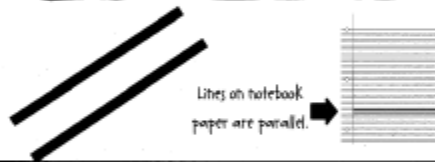A line that goes from side to side

Vertical Line

It stands up.

vertical

A line that goes up and down

Perpendicular Lines

Right angle →

Lines that intersect and create right angles to each other

Parallel Lines

Lines on notebook paper are parallel. →

Lines that are the same distance apart and never meet

Intersecting Lines

intersecting lines

Lines that cross or meet