

# Mrs. Smith's Smidgens

## Issue #15

December 12, 2025

### Final Silent "e"

We have finally learned all 5 jobs of final silent "e." I will be adding a page of these jobs to your student's baggie book bag after Christmas Break.

### Spelling Tests

Just a "heads up" that Spelling Tests will begin on Thurs., Jan. 15. More details about this will be in my Jan. 9, 2026 Mrs. Smith's Smidgens newsletter.

### Baggie Books

I will not be processing any baggie books on Thursday due to our Class Christmas Parties. So, a new baggie book will go home with your student on Thurs., Dec. 18 if a baggie book was returned to school on Wed., Dec. 17.

### New Markers Needed

Many students are needing new Crayola markers! I've given away most of my "extra" markers over the last few weeks. Please send new markers to school if your student says they need them, and I'll keep their old ones that still work in my "extras" bucket.

### Curriculum

**Math:** We are currently in the new unit Numbers within 20. Next week's lessons include Two Ways to Count, Numbers 16 to 20 and Number Words 0 to 10.

**Core Knowledge:** Core Knowledge is currently on hold until January.

**Spalding:** Planning to Teach This Phonogram Next Week: "ear of early" (1 sound) Also planning daily practice on all 16 of our previously taught 2-letter phonograms so students will not forget them

**Language Arts:** Medial vowel sounds, phonemic awareness, words with 2-letter phonograms, handwriting, future Spelling words, nonsense words, and the 5 jobs of final silent "e"

**Read Aloud Books:** Push and Pull by Patricia Murphy, 1 to 20 Animals Aplenty by Katie Viggers, There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Spoon by Lucille Colandro, Santa's Favorite Story by Hisako Aoki and Ivan Gantschev and Santa Claus and the Three Bears by Maria Modugno

### Important Dates

#### Wed., Dec. 17

Holidays Around the World Concert  
AM Class 10:00-11:00  
PM Class 2:00-3:00

#### Thur., Dec. 18

Class Christmas Parties  
AM Class 10:30-11:30  
PM Class 2:30-3:30

#### Fri., Dec. 19- Mon. Jan. 5

Christmas Break

#### Thurs., Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

#### Thurs., Jan. 1

Happy 2026!

#### Tues., Jan. 6

School Resumes for K students only

#### Thurs., Jan. 15

Hearing and Vision Screening

#### Mon., Jan. 19

NO SCHOOL  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

#### Tues., Jan. 20

1<sup>st</sup> Semester Report Cards Go Home

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### Taught 2-Letter Phonograms

sh, ee, th,  
ow, ou, oo,  
ch, ar, ay, ai,  
oy, oi,  
er, ir, ur, and wor

### Sound in a Sack Week of Dec. 16-18 "m"

### Phonogram Test

Our 4th phonogram test will be Thurs., Dec. 18. The test will include the last 7 of our "alphabet phonograms." We will have focused oral and/or written practice on those 7 phonograms every day next week. Proper TCA handwriting strokes (the "TCA way") is expected. The 4<sup>th</sup> phonogram test will include r, t, v, w, x, y and z. Your student's practice test will go home in their backpack on Wednesday.

### Mitten Tree Service Project

You would not believe how full and beautiful our Mitten Tree is looking these days! Even the students are amazed at how many items are hanging on the tree. But there is still room for more! Items may be brought to school any day next week.

Remember to take a look at our Mitten Tree Wednesday after our Holiday Concert or Thursday during our Christmas Party.

### Holidays Around the World Concert

Remember, students are encouraged to dress up in their "Christmas best" or wear TCA uniform, preferably a red or green shirt, for our Concert. After the concert, please come to our classroom for your student's personal items, as well as your fragile Christmas gift and Christmas card!

### Holiday Parties

We are having a Book Exchange during our Party. Girls bring a book for a girl; boys bring a book for a boy. Price limit is \$5.00. The book should be wrapped with only your student's name on the gift tag. Please send the book to school any day next week. It will be a Holiday Sweater and Denim Day, too!

### Something to Ponder

*"The best way  
to spread Christmas cheer  
is singing loud  
for all to hear."*

Spoken by Buddy the Elf  
in 2003

### Mrs. Smith's Contact Information

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