



"The price of greatness is responsibility."
Winston Churchill

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*Mrs. Nielsen's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade THUNDERBOLTS \* Songo Locks Elementary School \* 2015 – 2016*  
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January Newsletter

Personal Responsibility

This is a great time of year to reflect on our personal abilities and responsibilities both as adults and for our children. I have noticed that some of our 3rd graders have difficulty with personal responsibility. At times I hear things like, "My mom didn't pack my homework." Or "Dad forgot to send my ski pants." My response is always the same, "Why is that their job?"

For example, *can your child tie his/her own shoes?* This is typically a skill mastered before 3rd grade. *Do they do all of their own homework, and just ask for help when they are stuck? Do they make sure they have hat, mittens, boots and ski pants each morning?* All of these are generally appropriate skills for 3rd graders. If your child is not already doing these things independently I would encourage you to start teaching these skills. They may need reminders or even lists to help them, but with your support they can do it!

I realize that helping them to be independent will take longer *now*, but it will pay off in the end! To support this I will be focusing our classroom lessons on personal responsibility during January.

Snow Gear

Don't forget to remind your child to pack appropriate snow gear each day. It's not fun for students to watch the others having fun in the snow!

Warm Jacket that Zips Properly
Snow Pants

Boots

Warm "Snow" Mittens

Hat or Ear Muffs

Shoes to wear inside (boots are too hot)

Early Release Days

Each Monday from January 4th – February 29th will be an Early Release at noon. Students will be served both Breakfast and Lunch at school. Please let me know if your child will have an alternate plan for going home on those days. If your child is participating in the Ski Program please make sure they have a permission slip each Monday.

January Calendar

January 4	Early Release Day – 12:00
January 11	Early Release Day – 12:00
January 18	No School: MLK Jr. Day
January 25	Early Release Day – 12:00