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Asst. Principal
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PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING....

With Mrs. Ralph, Principal

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As we start this holiday season, we welcome parents to join us in the many activities that are planned in the classrooms and by the PTA. The PTA is sponsoring the annual Holiday Store this Friday from 5:00 to 7:30PM. This is a great time for your children to do some shopping for parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, etc. All the gifts are reasonably priced and will be wrapped before your child leaves the gym. It is also a great time for parents to visit with each other and enjoy a snack that is provided by the PTA. This has been a fun time in the past and has been enjoyed by many. At the same time that we are doing Holiday Store, we also have our Book Fair. We normally keep the Book Fair open one night for parents to visit and purchase presents. The Book Fair will be open during the Holiday Store hours and parents can visit while their children are in the gym. Hopefully, this will make it more convenient for parents. We will also keep the Book Fair open Tuesday, December 6 until 5:30PM. Our fantastic Dad's Group will be offering a raffle during the Holiday Store. This was very well received last year and all the proceeds went to subsidizing family activities that were sponsored by the Dad's Group.

The snow seems to have come early this year and I would like to remind parents that children need to have snow pants and boots in order to go in the snow here at school. If they do not have the pants and boots, they must remain in the paved areas.

We are very excited to have our Holiday Concert for our band student on Wednesday, December 7 at 7PM at the PAC. Everyone is invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to showcase all the hard work that our students have done and to enjoy a pleasant evening of music.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and if you have any concerns about your child, please contact the office and we will be glad to talk with you.

NUTS & BOLTS

Nancy Hart, Asst. Principal &
Curriculum Coordinator

The NH winter weather has begun. Please make sure your emergency information is kept up to date in the office in case of an early dismissal. We need to contact all parents or emergency contacts if we are dismissing more than ½ hour ahead of our scheduled dismissal time. The ½ hour window allows more travel time due to poor road conditions. Please also be aware that buses may run late in the morning and coming home on days that the weather is acting up! Please remind your child of the importance of safe bus riding. It is important to talk quietly and remain seated at all times. This is particularly important during messy driving conditions.

CURRICULUM CORNER:

You have all received our new "pilot" report card. We are looking at learning behaviors, achievement (not 1st trimester in grade 1), and effort during this recent reporting period. The next two trimesters we will additionally be reporting on proficiency related to curriculum standards. We will be asking for your input and suggestions in the spring as we make revisions. It is our goal to develop a reporting system that is more reflective of our teaching practices and shares an informative picture of a student's growth. Thank you for participating in conferences and reviewing our new reporting system.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Joyous Kwanzaa. I hope you all enjoy this special time with family and friends.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

With Louise Janelle

As holiday time quickly approaches, here are some tips to help keep the stress level at home to a minimum. This list is adapted from *The Parent's Little Book of Lists: Dos and Don'ts of Effective Parenting* by Jane Bluestein, Ph.D.

12 Ways to Increase Positivity in Your Interactions

- Distinguish between who your child is and what he/she does. Separate behavior from worth. Focus on what your kid is doing right. Look for the positive and build on that.
- Recognize (and celebrate) achievements, accomplishments, effort and improvement.
- Attack the problem instead of the person. Asking for different behavior is more effective - and more positive - than accusations, name calling, put-downs or shaming. (For example, "The rest of these toys need to be picked up" rather than "You are so lazy!")
- Remind yourself to be positive. One parent framed an inspirational saying and hung it near the front door to greet him (and remind him) as soon as he came into the house
- Create a reward-oriented home environment. * Think of consequences as positive outcomes that are available when your child cooperates. Emphasize the good things that happen (or the good things your kid can do) when he follows through on his responsibilities.
- State your boundaries and contingencies as promises rather than threats. ("If you finish by noon . . ." rather than "If you don't . . .").
- Communicate what you want positively by changing "no" statements to statements about expected behaviors. For example, "Don't shout" becomes "Speak softly." "No! Don't color on that!" becomes "Wait! Here's some paper for you to color on. Ask for the specific behaviors you want, rather than focusing on what you don't want.
- Rather than criticize your kid for suggesting or attempting a dumb idea, give more positive options. Change responses like "It's too cold to go outside in your T-shirt" to "It's cold outside. You can wear your sweatshirt."
- To whatever extent is possible in your life, minimize your exposure to negative, toxic people, information and situations.
- Smile and maintain your sense of humor.

*Rewards can be things like having clean laundry when your kid remembers to put his clothes in the hamper, or getting his favorite story read to him if he gets into pajamas with his teeth brushed by 7:00. Any positive outcome that is meaningful to your child can be a reward.

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Lucy Landry & Cathy Keehan

For the safety of your child, please try to address all of your transportation requests in writing. The phone requests have become a daily occurrence and we cannot verify the authenticity of a phone caller. Faxed requests are acceptable.

If your child will be absent from school for planned events, please send a note to the teacher and the office.

A friendly reminder from page 20 of our student handbook:

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

Schools will be open during bad weather unless it is considered to be too dangerous for pupils to commute to school. If weather conditions are bad at 6:00 A.M. but expected to improve by mid-morning, a delayed school opening will be announced on local radio stations. In the event of a major snowstorm, schools may be cancelled as early as 6:00 A.M.

The no school announcements will be made over local radio stations:

Boston	WBZ	1030 AM
Manchester	WGIR	610 AM
Manchester	WZID	95.7 FM
Exeter	WERZ	107.1 FM
Dover	WOKQ	97.5 FM

Also, these television stations:

Manchester	WMUR-TV9
Needham, MA	WCVB-TV5
Boston, MA	WHDH-TV7

Early dismissal from school due to inclement weather will be handled by the Superintendent of Schools. If school is dismissed earlier than usual due to weather or other emergencies, a phone chain will be activated to notify you or a person you have listed on the emergency card who will take responsibility in your absence. **The school may dismiss up to 30 minutes early without activating the phone chain and notifying parents.**

Your emergency designee listed should be able to respond quickly to meet the early arriving bus and/or can follow your prearranged plans. The children will be sent



home to their usual bus stops. Please discuss these plans in advance with these emergency designees. **PLEASE--no long distance numbers for your emergency designee.**

Please take time to instruct your child in detail what to do in case s/he arrives home to an empty, locked home. It does happen! Have you made arrangements to insure your child's safety for all emergencies? Does your child understand these arrangements?

Please note: Afternoon and/or evening school activities are automatically cancelled if school is closed or dismissed early due to inclement weather or other emergencies.

We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season!

PARENTS & READING

From Claire Manes,
Reading Specialist

Books make wonderful gifts.
Here are a few suggestions:

K-3

Elvis the Rooster Almost Goes to Heaven-D. Cazet
Daniels Pet-A. Ada
Catch Me If You Can-B. Most
Emma's Magic Winter-J. Little
Climb the Family Tree, Jesse Bear!-N. Carlstrom
If you Give...(series) L. Numeroff
Bill Grogan's Goat- M. Hoberman
Good Night, Good Knight-T. Shelley

Grades 3-5

The Art of Reading-Dutton Publishing
Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies-C Crinci
My Librarian is a Camel-M. Ruurs
Pirate's Eye-RJ. Priest
Please Bury Me in the Library- J. Lewis
Magic by the Book- N. Bernstein
The Dark Hills Divide-P. Carman
The author **Gail Gibbons** will be visiting us.
Her nonfiction books are recommended for all ages.
Happy Holidays, Mrs. Green, Librarian, & Mrs. Manes,
Reading Specialist

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Rosemary Thorne, RN, Carla Taylor, RN

Just a few reminders before the holiday season gets too crazy:

- ✓ Water bottles are a great idea to help the children keep hydrated during the school day-especially when there is an upper respiratory infection present.

✓ Coats, hats and mittens will be the order of the day soon. We have outside recess every day except for rain and heavy snow.

✓ Thanks to the parents who are sending in small containers of hand sanitizer in their student's lunch boxes. Washing hands goes a long way in keeping children and adults germ-free.

In addition, there have been a few cases of head lice scattered around. Remember that lice are not selective and will find any host available. In the past, we, in the Health Office, have found that drying the hair after each shampoo has been effective in dehydrating nits before they hatch into live lice. It may be a technique that you might wish to incorporate into your routine.

We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Homework assignment for Physical Education, keep doing your spot exercises at home.

Curl ups, push-ups and the sit and reach stretch are the focus but any exercises that you will do, are helpful! Also stay active outdoors with running, biking, walking, basketball and anything that is safe but gets the big muscles moving!
Happy Holidays,
Mrs. Dresser

MUSIC NOTES

From Ms. Soha

Save this date! Band students will have their first concert on Wednesday December 7, 2005 at 7pm at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center. You should receive details in Danville Delivery.

Congratulations band members!!

Nicholas MacRae earned his X
Jacob Perkins earned his 1st E and X
Mackenzie Hatfield earned her 1st E
Shawn Grenier earned his 1st E
Skylar Labbe earned her 1st E
Rhiannon MacLean earned her 1st E
Emily Proctor earned her 1st E
Scott Beucler earned both his L's and 3rd E
Anthony Amorelli earned his 1st E
Sabrina Boucher earned her 1st E
Danielle Gajewski earned her X
Kali Hume earned her 1st E
Briana Muir earned her 1st E
Chase Labbe earned his 2nd E
Masha Lange earned her X and 1st C



Shannon Mahoney earned her 1st E and X
 Sam Barch earned his 1st E
 Eliza Sanchez earned her 1st C

FROM THE ART STUDIO

Mrs. Squires

Happy Holidays from the Art Room!!!
 We are just beginning our winter units of study: grade 1 will be working with drawing materials, grade 2 with printmaking, grade 3 with collage, grade 4 with painting, and grade 5 with paper construction. Grade 5 will also be the first class to begin electronic art portfolios of all their projects this year. Be on the lookout for some great artwork from your children!
 I am adding a few items to our on-going list of supplies to be donated to the art room. Please read through it to see if there are any items that you could help out with:

- Wood scraps
- 8" x 8" wood squares
- Textured papers
- Fabric
- Ketchup or syrup bottles (plastic)
- Styrofoam slabs
- Wax paper
- Metal washers
- Containers WITH covers
- Toilet paper rolls
- Magazines with animals or outdoor themes (National geographic, Ranger Rick, etc.)

Lastly, if you had listed the art room as a place you would like to volunteer, I will be contacting you soon!

Thanks and have a wonderful holiday season!

CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

(To get voicemail directly)

Abraham	330
Antonakos	328
Blais	332
Blaszka	316
Braffitt	315
Charmanski	320
DeCost	325
Dibert/Nielsen	333
George	319
Glod	331
Hamilton(TLC)	323
Lachance(TLC)	324
Mezquita	318
Newman	317
Osborne	359
Pelletier	327
Perreault	326
Pouliot	321
Quigley	334
Richard	329
Art/Squires	307
Gym/Dresser	338
Cafeteria	309
Library	340
Music/Soha	308
Title I	306
Enrichment	305

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 2nd – Holiday Shopping Night 5:00-7:30
- Dec. 2nd – Scholastic Book Fair – adults only
- Dec. 5th – Danville Dads Meeting 7:30 PM
- Dec. 5th-9th - Scholastic Book Fair
- Dec. 6th – 5th Gr.– No. Shore Music Theatre
- Dec. 7th – Holiday Concert at PAC
- Dec. 14th – PTA Meeting 7:00 PM
- Dec. 15th – All School Field trip to PAC
- Dec. 19th – Danville Dads Meeting 7:30 PM
- Dec. 26-Jan. 2 Holiday break
- Jan. 16 – NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 25th – EARLY RELEASE 1:00 PM
- Feb. 27th-March 3 Winter Break

