

Dawson Elementary School Newsletter

December 2011

Volume 5, Issue 6

"Developing our students' knowledge, skills and talents to the fullest so they can make the world a better place for all".

Patricia A. Scales, Principal

Barbara M. Diamond, Assistant Principal

Principal's News

It is December and before you know it January, 2012 will be here!

The Holiday Shop is in full swing. Thank you Donna Stone and the parent volunteers helping our students find their "just right gifts."

So far we have not had any more snow! The weather has cooperated and the children have been able to run and play at recess.

We have concerts planned and the children have been practicing very hard.

We do not have a PTA meeting this month. We will have a SIMCO meeting on the 13th at 7PM in the school library.

Dear Parents

As you know this milder weather certainly won't last. We have some cooler weather ahead.

Please be sure to dress your child for the cold weather. Remember those hats, mittens, gloves, and boots! **Labeling your child's belongings is a good idea as we always seem to have many lost items in our lost and found.** Unless it is very cold or rainy we like to have the children get some fresh air. We have a growing lost and found. If you are missing any jackets, sweaters, or other articles you may want to check the table in the cafeteria. We have a big selection of lost clothing. Please be sure to check often as we will give all unclaimed articles to a worthy charity.

Picture re-takes are scheduled for December 15th. Information regarding school retakes will be coming home to you.

Many of you continue to send in your box tops and we truly benefit from an easy way to generate funds for the school. To make it easier it would be appreciated if you could cut them out and send them in a baggie labeled with your child's name and homeroom. We

still collect Campbell Soup labels. Please check the PTA website for additional information.

This is a very busy time of year for all of us. It is important that children come to school on time. If at all possible schedule appointments after the school day. When they miss school they lose valuable instructional time. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

Just a reminder that if your child has a fever please be sure they are fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. It is that time of year and we need to do what we can to help prevent the spread of colds and the flu.

An issue that we have had this fall is lice. This is problematic as the children all play very closely in school and on the bus. It is very important that you remind your child **NOT** to wear any hats or other items that are not their own. If your child has been sent home it is important that you follow the recommended treatment to avoid being re-infected. This treatment should include all clothing and other materials that your child has come into contact with.

I would like to discuss something that is happening more and more with you. Family and vacation times are special times to spend as a family. Although we do not encourage family vacation times during the school year there are times when this occurs. As stated in the handbook, (8.1.7 p.10) it is difficult to provide materials prior to the vacation, but we can offer the materials after you return. You may then make up the missing work with your child at home and not at recess. It is expected that the missed work be made up at home so your child does not fall behind.

It also strongly suggested that students do not miss school during the scheduled MCAS testing time frames.

I do appreciate your cooperation in avoiding vacations during school.

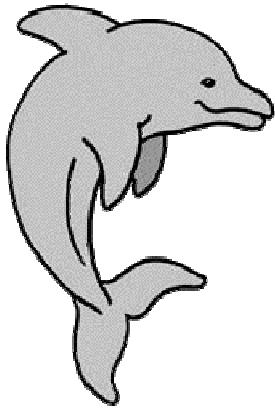


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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Holiday Shop
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- ◆ Professional Development Day
- ◆ Winter Concert
- ◆ Winter Break



Generosity

“has demonstrated generosity by helping people in need. Is sensitive to others. Is never mean or hurtful. And gives without expecting something in return.

IALAC

December’s theme is Generosity. To be generous is to help those in need, be sensitive to others’ feelings, and to give without wanting something in return.

We have a very generous school community and have always come out to support those in need.

A generous person:

- Helps people in need
- Is sensitive to others
- Never is mean or hurtful
- And gives without expecting something in return

Upcoming Events

Watch the school and PTA calendar for upcoming events as they are always changing. Visit the school website for updated news! As of now.....

Dec. 6th -8th - Holiday Shop

Dec. 13th- SIMCO

Dec. 14th- Half Day- 12:20 dismissal- NO PM kindergarten

Dec. 15th- Picture Retake day & Grade 5 Group Picture

Dec. 20th- Winter Concert 1-5- Gym

A- L 10:00 AM M-Z 1:45 -2:45

PLEASE PARK ACROSS THE STREET

Dec. 22nd- K Zinkus Winter Concert 10:45-11:15 AM- Music Room

Dec. 22nd- IALAC

Dec. 23rd- Jan 2nd- Winter Recess

School Resumes January 3, 2012

Study Tip

It is no surprise when we say that reading is the foundation of success in school and in life.

The ability to read and write is important in order to master other content areas and to be able to communicate what is learned.

Parents’ have an important role in the development of their child’s reading skills. Help your child develop good reading skills by following some simple steps.

Read aloud to your child. Children learn to be good readers by listening to the flow of language and being exposed to new vocabulary.

Try this...stop before the end of the story. Ask you child what she/he thinks will happen next. Making predictions is important in developing critical thinking skills.

SCHOOL SURVEY FACILITIES

Our custodial staff works hard to provide a clean safe environment for your child. Each day our cafeteria floor is mopped and washed. Tables are cleaned each day as well.

All bathrooms are washed and sanitized each day. Classrooms are swept and vacuumed daily and mopped once a week.

This summer our gym floor was refinished and the drapes were cleaned and flame-proofed.

Thank you for your continued support and hard work as we move into our second term of the school year.

I wish you all joy, health, and prosperity as we begin the holiday season and the New Year!

Yours in IALAC,