

Dawson Elementary School Newsletter

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Principal's News

Here it is December! The year is just flying by. We have been working hard implementing the curriculum. As always we appreciate how much time you spend reviewing homework, studying for tests, and reading with your child. Parent conferences went well and my feedback from parents and teachers was very positive. I'd like to thank the PTA and enrichment coordinator, Heather Tarantino for the outstanding programs that visited our school in November. This month we have the Holiday Shop during the week of December 7th. Your child's teacher will send home the time that your child's class has been scheduled. School picture retakes have been scheduled for Dec. 10th. More information will be sent home to you.

Dear Parents

Cold weather has arrived....brr! We strongly encourage the children to dress warmly, and to **please** be sure to label all hats, gloves, mittens, and boots. Right now we have a growing collection of clothes in the lost and found in the cafeteria. As this collection grows and grows we usually donate any lost article of clothing to charity during the Winter Break. Please feel free to come in and check for any missing clothing.

As you know the cold months may mean indoor recess. Many of our students go to the gym to play quiet activities, but it would be helpful if we had more games. So now is the time to clean out the game room! If you have any games for ages 7 and up, **in good condition, with all the pieces** that you would like to donate to the school we would appreciate it. You or your child could drop them off at the office.

As the holiday season approaches, many students and parents like to show appreciation to their child's teachers. Rather than buying individual gifts, it has been suggested

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

that parents might like to donate something to the classroom. If you chose to do this, please keep it simple. This could be a jumprope, nerf football or other safe playground equipment. It could also be a book given to the classroom library.

This is a difficult time for many families and your thoughtfulness is always appreciated. Your generosity has been demonstrated in so many ways. Having you support programs, fundraisers, copying, and volunteering is a gift in itself!

I would like to extend my thanks for all of you who participated in the Why Me/Sherry's House program. Your thoughtfulness will help those children and families that are less fortunate than us. It truly demonstrates the IALAC spirit.

For future planning we will have school until Dec. 23rd. School will be closed for Winter Recess from Dec. 24th through Jan. 1st. School resumes on Jan. 4th.

I would like to thank you all for being so careful in keeping your child home when they are experiencing symptoms from a cold and cough. We have been very watchful of any child not feeling well and this has helped keep the spread of colds and flu down.

A short time ago I sent a survey home to students in grades 3-5 to determine whether or not you would like to have your child participate in the Bay State Banking program. Results of the survey were tallied and the numbers indicate that there would not be enough participation to plan the program this year. We will send home any bank books or other banking materials with your child.



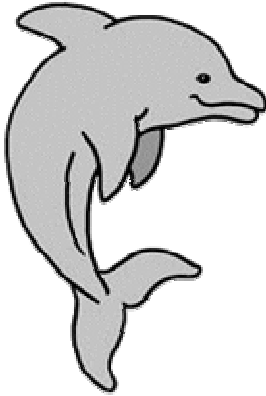
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Upcoming Events

- ◆ SIMCO
- ◆ Winter Recess
- ◆ School Picture Retakes

IALAC



Respect

“has demonstrated respect by listening carefully, taking turns, compromising, doing your part, showing appreciation, encouraging people, making people feel needed and never excluding anyone.”

We held our last IALAC assembly on Dec. 2nd. Last month's theme was on Respect. Respect means listening, sharing, taking turns, compromising, doing your part, showing appreciation, encouraging people, making people feel needed, and never excluding anyone.

This month's theme is on Generosity. It seems like a rather appropriate time of year to focus on this trait. This year Dawson School coordinated a community service activity for Sherry's House. This project continues spreading generosity to those in need, it is the IALAC way!

We are also participating in a Pet Food Drive and for the Tuft's Floating Hospital.

We remind children to be generous in giving, not just with gifts or money, but with our words, thoughts, and deeds. It is the way we give to our family, friends and even our pets!

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.....

December 8th- 11th Holiday Shop

December 10th- School Picture Retakes

December 11th -Discovery Museum
Grade 3 - Rocks

December 15th - SIMCO @7:00 in library

December 16th - Discovery Museum-
Rocks- Grade 3

December 24-January 1st- Winter
Recess- no school

January 4th- Monday- School Begins

Study Tip

Here are a few questions to ask yourself before sitting down to study.

Is my Study Place available to me whenever I need it?

Your Study Place does you little good if you cannot use it when you need it. If you are using a Study Place that you must share with others for any reason, work out a schedule so that you know when you can use it.

Is my Study Place free from distractions?

Research shows that most students study best in a quiet environment. If you find that playing a stereo or TV improves your mood, keep the volume low.

Does my Study Place have enough light?

The amount of light you need depends on what you are doing. The important thing is that you can clearly see what you need to see without any strain or discomfort.

Homework

One of the most important workstudy habits to develop is the completion of homework. Homework is given to reinforce and develop a deeper understanding of concepts being taught in school. Homework guidelines have been given to the students by their teachers to refer to when completing their assignments. Students in grades 3-5 have assignment notebooks which will provide a means to see homework assignments and long term projects at a glance. Refer to this often when checking for homework completion with your child. If at any time a student is having difficulty, please do not hesitate to write a note or call the teacher.

I hope that all of you have a wonderful holiday season. It is a time to reflect and be thankful for all the many wonderful people and things that we have in our lives.

I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday and a prosperous New Year!

Yours in IALAC,

Patricia A, Scales,
Principal