



# Mayo News

Principal – Judith Evans  
Assistant Principal – Patricia Hurley

## Happy New Year

### Upcoming Events

- Jan. 6** – HW Club for gr. 4 & 5
- Jan. 13** – ½ Day of School – Professional Development
- Jan. 18** – No School – MLK Holiday
- Jan. 20** – **No** HW Club – due to high school midterms
- Jan. 22** – Term 2 Grades Close
- Jan. 27** – HW Club for gr. 4 & 5
- Jan. 29** – Term 2 Report Cards Issued
- Feb. 3** – HW Club for gr. 4 & 5
- Feb. 8 - Feb. 12** – Mayo School Olympics (more information forthcoming)
- Feb. 15 - Feb. 19** – No School; Feb. Vacation
- Feb. 24** – HW Club for gr. 4 & 5

Thank you to parents Marianne Zimon and Kirsten Newman, as well as the PTA, who purchased a number of sleds for the children to use at recess. Please remember that children should be dressed appropriately for recess and don't forget to label hats, mittens, snow pants and boots!

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Mayo School Community was treated to a terrific holiday concert by our third, fourth and fifth grade students, under the direction of Mrs. Liz Puleo. The hour long program featured a variety of old and more contemporary songs from the U.S. as well as around the world. Other highlights included fifth grade Irish step dancers Jenna Mangsen and Shaye McNamara as well as flutists Mrs. Angela Greene (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) and Mrs. Jennifer Flynn (parent of Connor in 5I and Jack in 1B). **A Little About Mrs. Puleo:** Mrs. Puleo came to Mayo School five years ago and the music program has blossomed under her direction ever since. Through her computer savvy, Mrs. Puleo has been able to find accompanying music for third grade recorders – a difficult task when students are limited to only three notes B, A, and G. Yet with technology, anything is possible. In addition to creating a more polished sound, the accompanying music also enhances students' knowledge of timing and the importance of following the director's lead. Before coming to the Wachusett School District, Liz Puleo taught chorus and A.P. Music Theory at Gardner High School and General Music at the Helen Mae Sauter Elementary School in Gardner. Liz completed her undergraduate work at Anna Maria College and just earned her Master of Arts in Arts Education from Fitchburg State College. Liz also teaches private trumpet lessons from her home in Worcester and performs for the Master Singers of Worcester. Liz can be seen in the Mikado at Worcester State College on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and in Jolly Old England on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at the Salem Covenant Church in Worcester.

### Another Contributor to Mayo School

Ellie Spinney (the wife of our Technology Specialist, Dave Spinney) created Mayo School notecards, featuring a photo of the school. Her photo can also be seen across the top of the Mayo School website homepage. Ellie is a web designer by profession but also has an architectural and real estate photography business on the side. Her work can be viewed at: [www.elliespinney.com](http://www.elliespinney.com).

## Our Generous Mayo Families

Throughout the month of December, the Mayo Community provided support to a number of organizations. They are as follows:

**HOLIDAY CHILD** – For the tenth year in a row, Holiday Child was the school wide project for our students as they performed kind acts and completed chores to earn money for needy children. This event, which was organized by Mrs. Tara Slavin and Mrs. Jill Johnson, along with assistance from Mrs. Rauh, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Pacek, Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Senckowski earned over \$1800. Our gift allowed 22 children from the Apostolate Agency of Worcester to be outfitted with warm clothes and toys for Christmas.

**WEE AID BAGS** – Green Pod students, under the direction of Mrs. Leith, filled 29 Wee Aid Bags with basic toiletries as well as hats, gloves, socks and mittens for the homeless. In addition, Sydney Provencher's grandmother knitted 13 hats. Also, contributing bags were students from Mrs. Greene's room, Miss Allberg's room, Mrs. Iacovone's room, and Ms. Holbrook's room.

**HEIFER PROJECT** – In lieu of teacher gifts, third graders sent in donations to the Heifer Project. Third grade teachers, as well, donated money in the name of their parent volunteers. The classrooms then determined which animals to purchase and which Third World Countries would be the recipients of their gifts.

**PAWS PANTRY** – On December 23<sup>rd</sup> students and staff donned PJ's and donated supplies to the school's Paws' Pantry, which supplies classrooms with badly needed facial tissues, soap, cleaners, and paper towels.

## Classroom News

Janet Shainheit, a former colleague of Mrs. Evans from Worcester Academy, visited the second grade in December to share some of her poetry. Ms. Shanheit explained the history behind her pieces as well as her inspirations for writing. A former librarian, Ms. Shanheit has been published numerous times and is the recipient of the WCPA Poetry Contest and the Worcester Magazine Poetry Contest.

First graders learned about the Winter Solstice and various holiday traditions from around the world. Their culminating project was a program of songs and poems for their families on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Kindergarten teachers were encouraging random acts of kindness during the holiday season. Parents sent in notes, identifying caring gestures that they witnessed at home, while teachers recognized acts of kindness at school. The children made train cars for the Kindness Express and the notes were deposited in the individual student train cars, which were shared with families at the end of the month.

Fifth grade teachers Miss Allberg, Mrs. Iacovone, and Mrs. Olson are piloting three engineering units for the Boston Museum of Science. The program intertwines literature and engineering as students are presented with a real-life problem and challenged to solve it through a 5 step design process. Students also took pre and post-tests which the Museum will use to fine tune the units. Teachers, too, provided the Museum with feedback and in return are given the materials from the lab activities. The three science labs were Removing/Containing an Oil Spill, Designing Submersibles, and Recreating a Petroglyph.

## From our School Psychologist

In addition to coaching students through difficult situations and teaching them coping skills, Mrs. Wood has also made herself a valuable resource to teachers and parents. Below is a favorite website of Mrs. Wood, which parents might find helpful: [www.fishfulthinking.com](http://www.fishfulthinking.com).

**From WRSD Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC):** SEPAC will host a presentation on the CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) Non Violent Physical Crisis Intervention Program on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at Davis Hill Elementary School, Jamieson Road, Holden. The focus will be an overview of CPI core training practices and philosophy. Meet and greet begins at 6:30 pm with the presentation starting at 7:00. This meeting is free and open to the public.