

DMCS Newsletter December 10, 2020

Dear Parents-

The countdown to Christmas Break continues. Annually at this time of the year the build-up of student energy is palpable. It is like the electricity hums on all children and you can feel it 😊. Their joy is contagious, and I feel blessed to be able to see it each year.

Can the second week of Advent truly be almost complete? I do not know about you, but I begin to feel a bit nervous at this time of the year. There seems to be so much to accomplish and so little time in which to do it! Because of this, I work to remind myself that this special season is a time for quiet introspection, wonder, and awe; not hustle, bustle, and frustration. It continues to be a work in progress for me!

We look forward to welcoming our quarantined classes back next week, and we will work to finish taping for the Christmas concert. We are excited to have this project completed and sent out to our families and all the nursing homes and assisted

living facilities we partner with through the year.

We are also excited about the new CDC quarantine guidelines that the MDH has accepted. We will be drafting new communications for use after January 1 around this guidance and communicate to all our families in the new year. In short, the new guidance allows a 10-day quarantine if people do not have symptoms and have received a negative test result with the test taken 5-7 days after the exposure. There will be some documentation and tracking required for this and we want to be organized and ready to deal with this when it occurs.

In the new year, we will plan to continue to utilize our pod strategy to quarantine only those that must be while keeping everyone else in-person. The value of the face to face interaction with teachers becomes more and more evident with each experience of on-line learning we go through. We are working diligently to reduce the amount of time we need to do this, and we will continue to do so as the rest of the year progresses.

Make sure to mark your calendars- We have planned to take a longer break at Christmas time to provide a 14-day reset. We strongly encourage any family who travels or gathers with others they have not been in contact



with recently to consider taking additional time on either side of that break to assure a 14-day quarantine. If you are wondering about this, please give me a call or send me an email. We want to work with and support our families, and I am happy to talk through any of this with you.

Next week marks the end of our second quarter. The 2020-2021 school year is half-way done. It is incredible to look back and see all that we have survived in the last year. Thank you for walking this path with us and entrusting your children to our care.

Thank you for all you are doing.

Keep the faith-

Mrs. Ashley

Every child is a Vision of Hope!



PAWS

(Parents Actively Working in Schools)

Would like you to help them ring in some Holiday Cheer!

PAWS is partnering with the Salvation Army to do Bell Ringing on December 12th from 10AM-6PM at Hy-Vee.

Click the link to volunteer with your family for a 30 minute bell-ringing session.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4AACAD23A4F94-ring>



Christmas Greeting for Healthcare Workers from Archbishop Hebda:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b3T8OkEDDc&feature=youtu.be>



Dates to Remember

Dec. 10, Christmas Concert Filming-Dress Code
11 or Best (consult teacher newsletter to
17 know which day is for your child)

Dec. 18 Dress Down Day
2nd Quarter Ends

Dec. 21 Christmas Break Begins

Jan. 4 School Resumes



Please Help!

I am asking for help from each of you with a project. Jim Langeslag (maintenance) has resigned his position with us. I am hoping to provide him with some positive kindness and thankfulness with a basket of good wishes. I invite your family to send a positive message of thankfulness or good wishes to school by Monday, December 14th. I will collect these messages and then put them together for Jim. My plan is to deliver them on Thursday, December 17th. Let's wish Jim a great retirement even in these challenging times.