

The Walnut Street School Newsletter

December

December 3, 2009

Dear Parents,

Below please find a summary of recent highlights along with important information for the month of December.

Report Cards

Report cards were distributed on November 19th. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, if you have a question or concern regarding your child's grades. All of our teachers' email addresses are located on the Delanco Township Schools' Website. Simply click on the **Personnel Directory** link (under the **Contact Us** category) and you will find a complete list of our teachers along with their email addresses and phone numbers. All faculty members, and everyone within this school community, want your child to achieve all that he/she can. We are always happy to hear from you.

Interim Reports

Interim reports will be sent home with students on Friday, December 17th. A *Global Connect* message will be sent home as a reminder. Your child's interim is **yours to keep**.

Early Dismissal/School Closing Information

12/4/09	In-Service	No School
12/23/09	Winter Break Begins	12:40 Dismissal
1/4/09	Classes Resume	Full Day of School

*The Student Council will be providing pretzels and water (please see below) on December 23rd.

Socks for Soldiers

As a former member of the Armed Forces, **Mr. Styles** suggested at our last faculty meeting that our school support an organization called **Socks for Soldiers** during this Holiday Season. We all agreed that this was a terrific idea.

So, our school will be **collecting socks for the rest of December**. Due to military uniform regulations, we can only collect plain white cotton crew socks that have a heel. In addition, the socks cannot have any logos (Nike, Adidas, etc.) or colored stripes.

We will have a **Sock-Hop** during the day on December 23rd (the ½ day before our winter vacation) to reward our students for their participation in this important initiative. All students who donate a pair of socks will be rewarded with a **free snack** during the Sock-Hop.

Although our primary emphasis will be on collecting socks, *Socks for Soldiers* also collects powdered drinks, snacks, personal hygiene products, gum, and long distance phone cards. We would be more than happy to accept and pass along any donations that you are willing to offer.

Our hope is to help our soldiers during this Holiday Season. Thank you for your help and support!

Students of the Month

As you know, this year we are emphasizing our character education program in a number of ways. Every month there is a new character education trait of the month and our teachers make it a priority to weave this word into their lessons. Additionally, every month at least one student is rewarded for the fine job he/she has done in bringing the word of the month to life. We are doing this because we believe that we need to provide our students with more than academic knowledge in order for them to learn and grow as people.

The character education word of the month for November was **Helpfulness**. The following students were chosen by our faculty for the way that they personified this character education trait:

Grade 6: **Erick McCombs**

Grade 7: **Allie Jenkins**

Grade 8: **Leanne Lieberum**

The character education word of the month for December is **Compassion**.

Giraffe of the Month

This year we decided to recognize one student a month who not only represents the character education trait of the month, but who also goes out of his/her way to “stick their neck out” and help others (whether these people be students, teachers, parents, administrators, or other members of our school community). The student selected as the **Giraffe of the Month for November is Mandie Paygar**.

Safety Patrol

We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated students who volunteer their time to make sure that our school is safe. The work that these students do for our community directly relates to the meaning of our character education program.

Mrs. Stuck works as the Advisor to the Safety Patrol and she does an excellent job teaching and working with these students. The student selected as the **Safety Patrol Officer of the Month** for November is **Christina Chang**.

Congratulations, Miranda!

Miranda Pawline has been selected as an honorable mention for the 2009 New Jersey Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards. The Governor will be presenting her with a formal award on December 3rd.

Canned Food Drive

The Impact Club and the Student Council are working in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus for this year’s annual canned food drive. During these hard times, we hope to help as many families as we can. The drive will run the **first two weeks of December**. We will be collecting all canned food donations at school.

Study Island

- All parents should be receiving an emailed report from *Study Island* on a weekly basis. Please email me at jcogan@delanco.com if this is not happening.
- Any student who’d like to take a *Study Island* reassessment can do so after school on **Tuesday** or **Friday**. Interested students should **sign-up** in the **main office**.

Yearbook

Mrs. Hammell is working hard on the yearbook. She’s asking that all 8th grade students bring in a baby picture by 12/22. She’ll only keep the pictures for a few days so that she can scan them into the computer.

Upcoming Events

- 12/4 – **Holiday Auction** at Walnut Street (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
- 12/14 – **PTO meeting** at 7:30 p.m. in the Pearson Conference Room
- 12/8 – **7th grade field trip** to see Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*
- 12/11 – **Walnut Street Band and Chorus performance** at the Moorestown Mall at 11:00 a.m.
- 12/12 – **Breakfast with Santa/Little Shoppers’ Shop** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Pearson
- 12/16 – **Winter Concert** at Walnut Street at 7:00 p.m.
- 1/20 – **8th Grade Dance Meeting for Parents** at Walnut Street at 7:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Walnut Street faculty and staff, I want to extend our best wishes for a Happy Holiday season for you and your families.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to call on me at any time with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

John Cogan
Director of Curriculum