

The Walnut Street School Newsletter

January

January 6, 2010

Dear Parents,

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

Report Cards

The second quarter will come to a close on January 29th. Report cards will be distributed to our students on February 9th. Please look these over very carefully and **do not hesitate to call or email your child's teacher** to ask a question or voice a concern. I know that our teachers want to see your children achieve their very best. They are eager to work with you to ensure that this happens. The report card that your child brings home is **yours to keep**.

Schools Closed – Our schools will be closed on **January 18th** in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Way to Go!

Thank you to the PTO for the wonderful job they did with the Holiday Auction this year! Approximately **\$8,500** was made. For those of you who don't know, the PTO uses the money that they raise over the course of the year to help our school and our teachers in offering our students excellent educational experiences. Congratulations on a job well done!

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 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 December was **Compassion**. The following students were chosen by our faculty for the way that they personified this character education trait:

Grade 6: **Brittany Kirk**

Grade 7: **Carley Newman**

Grade 8: **Catelyn Stasiuk**

The character education word of the month for January is **Self-Discipline**.

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 **December** is **Neil Brooks**.

Safety Patrol

We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated students who volunteer their time to work outside in the cold to make sure that our school is safe. **Mrs. Stuck** works as the Advisor to the Safety Patrol and she does an excellent job teaching and working with these students.

The **Safety Patrol Officer of the Month** for **December** is **Emily Noe**.

Congratulations!

We're very proud to announce that the following twelve students have been selected for the **Western Burlington County Honor Band**: **Jimmy Bernard, Bobby Davison, Brook Eagleson, Tim Hansen, Allie Jenkins, Alexis Johnson, Leanne Lieberum, Emily Noe, Miranda Pawline, Tim Rottinger, Katherine Stypinski, and Jillian Wessel**.

This is a **wonderful accomplishment** for these students! Special thanks to **Mr. Mount** for the terrific job that he does with our Band.

Graduation Gowns – Our 8th graders are going to be fitted for their graduation gowns on **Thursday, January 14th**. Please contact **Mr. Shields** if your 8th grade child is not in school on January 14th.

Canned Food Drive – Our school worked with the *Knights of Columbus* to collect canned food for those less fortunate during the holiday season. **Thank you** for your generous contributions!

Socks for Soldiers – Our *Socks for Soldiers* initiative was a big success. **Thank you** so much for all of your donations!

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 News

Mrs. Hammell has been doing a great job with the yearbook this year. She would like all parents to know the following:

- The yearbook will cost \$18 this year (only cash will be accepted).
- Yearbook money is due by March 13, 2009.
- If we do not sell at least 100 copies of the yearbook, it will be cancelled and money will be refunded to those who purchased it.

Emergency School Closing Information

We make every effort to avoid closing school before the regularly scheduled time. However, if it should ever be necessary to close early we can set up Global Connect to call work or emergency numbers. If we do not have a work number or emergency number for you, please send one in to us as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency early closing the phone message will ask parents to pick up or to call to give us permission to release their child. Children will not be sent home early without parent contact.

If it becomes necessary to close school or have a delayed opening we will use our Global Connect phone notification system. If you have changed your home number recently, please let us know. We will continue to announce closings on KYW, AM 1060, Channel 6 Action News and www.wpvi.com.

Delanco's Emergency School Closing Number is 677. Announcements will be posted on our district website, www.delanco.com.

McCarter Theater Trip – On December 8th, our seventh grade students enjoyed a wonderful presentation of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. **Special thanks** to **Mrs. Farley**, **Ms. Bozarth**, **Mrs. Russell**, and **Mrs. Rafanello** for volunteering to chaperone the trip!

Moorestown Mall – On December 11th, the **Walnut Street Band** and **Chorus** performed brilliantly for all to hear at the Moorestown Mall. **Special thanks** to **Mrs. Cann** and **Mr. Mount** for doing such a **wonderful job** in preparing the students for this event. I would also like to say that it was a pleasure to see so many parents at the mall to support our students.

Holiday Concert – On December 16th, the **Pearson Chorus**, the **Walnut Street Chorus**, and the **Walnut Street Jazz Band and Stage Band** put on a sensational performance at the Walnut Street School. Again, **special thanks** to **Mrs. Cann** and **Mr. Mount** for doing such a **wonderful job** in preparing our students for this show.

Upcoming Events

1st Dance of the New Year! – Walnut Street will hold its first dance of 2010 on **Friday, January 22nd**. The dance will run from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$4.00; snack and drinks will be sold. All proceeds benefit our 8th grade class.

Officer Phil Assembly – *Officer Phil* will be visiting our 6th grade students on Friday, January 29th @ 10:15 a.m. to help in educating our students on the topics of safety, crime prevention, and responsibility.

Meeting for Parents – 8th Grade Dance – The next meeting is scheduled for January 20th at Walnut Street at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Mr. Shields or Ms. McGovern if you are interested in learning more.

PTO Membership

Dues are only \$3.00 to join the PTO. This year, our goal is to have 100% participation for parents and teachers. If you would be interested in joining the PTO, please call Colleen Truncer at 856-764-7476.

Upcoming PTO Events:

- The next PTO Meeting will be Monday, January 11th at 7:30pm in the Pearson Conference room.
- Our next Chick-Fil-A spirit night will be January 14th at the Delran Chick-Fil-A from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Coupons will be coming home through the school a few days before. The PTO will be offering a prize to the class with the highest percentage of coupons turned in that night. Chick-Fil-A will donate 20% of the sales with a coupon back to the Delanco Schools.

On behalf of the Walnut Street faculty and staff, I would like to say that we are very excited to begin a new year in such a special school.

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/Building Administrator