



# Derry Village School

We Open the Door to Learning

February 2017

## Some Reminders

- Parents dropping off students in the morning are reminded to be vigilant of students, other cars and buses arriving and departing. The safety of students is our greatest concern. Please respect the arrival procedures we have set in place.
- Parents dropping off students who are late are reminded to come into the office to sign students in. This process assists our office staff and ensures the safe arrival of your child.
- Please make sure that phone contact details are accurate with our office. Any changes of phone number or address can be made with the office.

## Principal's Message

*Wow! Those mighty Patriots have left me speechless after their Super Bowl win. The lesson for us all... never give up even in the face of adversity. Truly an inspirational win for New England.*

*We have a busy February coming up because we have Winter Vacation at the end of the month. We celebrate Valentine's Day with our annual Valentine's Dance at school. Progress Reports go home this month also.*

*On Blizzard Bag days it is important for students to complete Blizzard Bag requirements AND bring the completed work in the day after. Bringing in the completed work the day after the snow day is important because that is what the school records as participation. (Students continue to have five more days after the snow day to complete the work in order to receive a completion grade on the report card). 80% participation is critical for the day to count as a school day. That participation is determined the day after the snow day.*

*Thank you to parents for your cooperation with our new dismissal car pick up. So far it has worked very well. We will continue to make slight changes to improve the system.*

*Yours in education,*

*Chris McCallum*



## Coming Dates

- Feb 6 Ski Club
- Feb 7 PALS 3-4pm
- Feb 8 PTA Meeting
- Feb 8 Derry Public Library visit - Storytime Kindergarten - 9:30 am, 10:00 am & 12:30 pm
- Feb 9-10 Dental Program
- Feb 10 Valentine's Dance 6:30-8pm
- Feb 13 Ski Club
- Feb 13 Gr 3 Helen Keller Visit - 12:50pm
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day - classroom parties 2:00 pm
- Feb 15 Derry Public Library visit - Storytime Kindergarten - 9:30 am
- Feb 16 Gr 4 Field Trip to State House & NH Historical Museum
- Feb 20 Ski Club
- Feb 24 Gr 1 Michelle Menagerie - 9:00 & 10:00 am
- Feb 27 Mar 3 School Vacation
- Mar 7 PALS 3:00 - 4:00pm

## Spirit Week

Stay tuned. Spirit Week is coming to Derry Village School during the week of March 13-17, 2017.

## PowerSchool Alert

The PowerSchool Alert system is used to alert parents of school closures and delayed openings and other school wide events. We are constantly updating contact information for families as the year progresses. If you have changes in contact information, particularly phone numbers and email addresses please notify the office. If you have not been getting PowerschoolAlert messages please contact the school office.

## Indoor Recess

During the cold weather months we continue to have outdoor recess unless the temperature falls below twenty degrees Fahrenheit (wind chill is taken into consideration). We use the Accuweather report on the Derry Cooperative School District webpage to make this determination. Students will continue to have recess indoors while the weather is below 20F.



## Winter Vacation

The winter vacation will take place the week of February 27 - March 3. Students will return to school on Monday, March 6. We hope that you have a safe, happy and relaxing vacation week with your families.

## Notice of NonDiscrimination

*The Derry Cooperative School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. Any student, parent on behalf of their child, or employee who believes that he or she has a disability and thinks that accommodations are necessary to afford an equal opportunity for success, should contact Mr. C. Hunt [Section 504 coordinator.]*

## Nurses Corner

### Family Meals

Do your kids rush through dinner and bolt from the table? Try these ideas to build quality family time into your dinner hour.

Keep the conversation light. Focus on the events of the day or fun weekend plans ahead. Of course, praising your children for a job well done at school or home is always welcome!

Take turns. Ask each person to tell one interesting thing he or she learned during the day. That includes you, too. You might mention something you read in the newspaper or learned about at work.

Play a game. Try the "name game." Start with the name of someone famous (George Washington). Go around the table, taking turns calling out another well-known person or character with the same first or last name (Curious George, George Washington Carver).

## 2016 Youth Art Month

Art educators from the Derry Cooperative School District and surrounding towns are pleased to announce their annual Youth Art Month Art Exhibit at Pinkerton Academy's Stockbridge Theatre Lobby. Youth Art Month (YAM) is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school arts programs.

This annual art show features artwork from future Pinkerton students in grades K - 8. The Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, March 9 from 6 - 7 pm in the lobby of the Stockbridge Theatre, Derry, NH. The show will run from March 9 - 26 and can also be viewed during the theatre's normal business hours.

A list of participating DVS students will be made available for the March Newsletter. ~ Mrs. Scanlon



## Blizzard Bag Reminder

At this time we have experienced our first Blizzard Bag day. Thank you to parents and students for your enthusiasm. Blizzard Bags containing all assignments were distributed during Parent-Teacher Conferences in December. More copies can be supplied on request.

- ★ All students are free to complete their paper Blizzard Bags during a Blizzard Bag Day.
- ★ Students in Grades 4-8 have an optional Google Classroom site to post questions or assignments.
- ★ Additional copies of the curriculum can be printed from the links provided on the school district website.

- Assignments are **due** the day the student returns from the Blizzard Bag Day. However, students may have an additional 5 school days to finalize their work for report cards.
- For more information, please read the Letter from the Superintendent and the Question and Answer Brochure on the School District webpage. You may also like to watch the video of the Blizzard Bag Information Night. If you have further questions, please contact your child's teacher or building principal.

## Seat Belts

We would like to remind parents driving their children to school that NH State Law requires kids under 18 to wear a seat belt. The Department of Safety strongly recommends safety belts for every driver and passenger. Seat belts are the single most effective traffic safety device for preventing death and injury, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Wearing a seat belt can reduce the risk of crash injuries by 50 percent.

## Star Reading Classrooms for December 2017

Kinder - Mrs. Zbieg 2,590 mins

1st Grade - Mrs. Waterhouse 2,188 mins

2nd Grade - Mrs. Landry 4,311 mins

3rd Grade - Mrs. Wasserman 3,967 mins

4th Grade - Mrs. Secor 5,407 mins

5th Grade - Mrs. Gagnon 5,232 mins

The winner of the January raffle for a \$10 gift certificate to the book fair in spring is: Jonathan A in KGam, Owen H in 3C

## Free and Reduced-Price Lunch

In accordance with federal regulations, the District shall make available to all children of low economic means and children of moderate-income families experiencing financial difficulties free or reduced-priced lunches through the School Lunch Program in the local school.

Parents who believe their children are eligible may contact the building principal or Food Service Director and a determination will be made relative to their eligibility. Decisions regarding eligibility will be determined solely by the Income Eligibility Guidelines from the USDA. If you require assistance completing the forms contact the school office for help. We would be happy to assist.

## Keeping Students Engaged in Learning Even When School is Out

While students are out of school there are a number of things parents and students can do to encourage learning even when school is out. Taking advantage of the many learning opportunities students will have during the break is important. Parents are always teaching their children, but learning done at home can have more of an impact if parents and children recognize the opportunity to learn something new in whatever they do.

Traveling, visiting family, going to special events, or just working and relaxing around the house can turn into an exciting adventure if parents seize the opportunity to learn with their child.

Parents can plan a trip to the library, check out books, and read to younger children. If children are older, encourage them to read a book and have a discussion on what they read.

Even if families watch family-friendly television together, this process can encourage children to use higher-level thinking skills as parents ask questions and have children discuss what they are viewing.

By engaging in interactive and thought provoking activities over the winter break, you can ensure that students are continuing the learning process even when they are not in the classroom.