

CONCORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2008
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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 12/21-1/5 Winter Break
- ◆ 1/5 Classes Resume
- ◆ 1/7 On-Line Lunch Ordering Closes
- ◆ 1/16 11:45 Early Dismissal
- ◆ 1/19 No School
- ◆ 1/22 2nd Grade Music Program
- ◆ 1/23 Report Cards Issued

PARENT NEWSLETTER Dr. Laura Anderson, Principal

Principal's News



Wow! I cannot believe it is time for winter break already. We will reach our half way point in the school year when we get back from break. It seems like we just started this school year. The students have been so busy reading, writing, completing math problems, and learning about science concepts and the social issues of our time. Classrooms are filled with exciting, engaging activities that stretch the minds of our students. Teachers, support staff, parents and other volunteers are working with our students to bring out the best in them, both academically and socially. I am so proud to be a member of such a wonderful educational team.

I want to thank you for your continued support and advocacy for our students, staff and school. Without your valuable partnership, Concord would not be the wonderful place it is. With that said, I need to ask for your assistance and support again. Please help us to get your children to school on time each day. We have had many instances of student tardies over the past few weeks.

For your convenience, we open the doors to students and start the car rider line at 8:00 AM each day. Students are expected to be in their classrooms ready to learn at 8:15 AM.

While in the car rider line, it would help us to unload safely, yet move a little faster, if everyone would pull as far up as possible and stay in line until all cars are emptied. This way, we can unload 15- 20 cars at a time in a safe manner. When cars pull out of line, it could possibly create a dangerous situation or accident. We want to avoid that. Your cooperation and support is key to this working well.

On behalf of the Concord staff, I would also like to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season. We hope you enjoy the time away from school and find time to spend with family and friends. Happy Holidays,

Laura Anderson

THANK YOU TO OUR ROOM PARENTS!



We would like to thank all of our room moms for their support of our holiday celebrations concluding with our Valentine Day celebration on Feb. 13.

Thank you to everyone for their Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops. Did you know that we also collect old ink cartridges from printers and turn those in for reimbursement?



REGISTRATION!



Registration packets for the 2009-2010 school year for Kindergarten and PreSchool will be available in the office beginning January 5th. A Kindergarten RoundUp will be held at Concord February 5th at 6:30 pm. In order to be eligible for kindergarten, the child should have reached his/her fifth birthday on or before September 1, 2009. We have tried to keep an updated list of children who will be attending kindergarten but please notify any of your neighbors or friends who live in the district and are eligible for kindergarten or our preschool program. For registration packets please contact the school office at 630-968-3026.



CONCORD HAPPENINGS!

So much has been happening around Concord –

- ✓ We had a Rain Forest Assembly during the school day and was well attended by parents and students in the evening
- ✓ Our 3rd graders had their music program “From The Inside Out”
- ✓ Our 2nd graders took a trip to Cass Jr. High to be surprised by our 8th graders who wrote them Christmas stories.
- ✓ We welcomed 12 new students to our First Step program.

COUNSELORS CORNER

Concord School Counselor's Corner Dec. 2008 Gifts of Love

At our last Teachers' Institute the staff felt our emphasis on "Manners Matter" this year has brought noticeable improvement in respect and politeness at Concord School in the halls, at assemblies, and in the classrooms. Have you noticed a difference at home? We sincerely hope there has been carry over. Are your expectations at home supporting the Concord initiative? It really makes a difference.

December holds so many promises. It is the time of the year to wish happiness and good will to friends and loved ones, near and far.... time to share the joys of the past and the hopes of the future, and to remember all we have to be thankful for. It is also said that the holiday season is the season of giving. Yet, in this very media prevalent society it sometimes becomes a difficult task to teach our children about the joys of giving. Still, in spite of the uphill battle of TV commercials, catalogues, and store displays inviting children to want so many exciting toys, there are opportunities to teach, share, and integrate the value of giving in a child's life during the holidays.

The students and I have been talking about the saying: "Remember, the greatest gift you can give to anyone is the gift of love." After some discussion they realized that though love costs nothing, it is priceless. They soon were listing all the gifts of love that they could share with their family. Some of the favorites were: design a card, draw a picture, write a poem, give a back rub, shovel snow, help with chores such as dishes, cleaning, surprising a parent with breakfast in bed. Other gifts of love included: being good and not arguing, going to bed on time, not fighting with my sister or brother, (they felt that was a difficult one, but they were going to try) feed and walk the dog without being reminded, give love by not making a mess and keeping my room clean, do homework as soon as I arrive home and get it done without arguing or whining, I will not be annoying, I will get up on time in the morning on the first call, I will help my little sister with her home work, how about a big kiss and hug everyday of the year, and last, I will make you proud of me. My favorites were talk as a family at dinnertime, invite my parents to play in the snow, not argue with my brother or sister. As one child shared, all my mother wants for Christmas is, "Happy Children." Now that created a discussion on a new level.

As the discussions progressed, and the children were excited about inviting their parents to play in the snow and to build a snowman together, many were saying they wish their parents would take time to play in the snow or play a game with them. Often the parents would promise, not now, in a little bit and then it never happened. They were so disappointed when talking about this that I promised I would mention this concern in my December Counselor's Corner article. As a grandparent I can remember how busy parents are, but I also realize that the best gift that we can give our children is the gift of time. It is a time of life long memory making.

This week as I asked the children if they had started giving their "gifts of love" their responses were gratifying. So many were excited to report what they had done for their families. One second grader said, "I haven't fought with my sister for a whole week." A fourth grader said, "I have been getting up on my own so my mother won't be late for work."

May you enjoy your surprise gifts of love. They certainly are gifts of the heart. My wish for you and your family this special season is time to make lasting memories with one another.

June Scott, Concord Counselor



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Concord Student Council would like to thank the many families that donated presents that were shared with the less fortunate over the holidays and the canned food donations to the Lions Club. Your generosity enabled others to enjoy the spirit of the season. Thank You!



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SCHOOL REMINDERS

- ✓ Please remember our school hours - classes **begin** at **8:15** so students **must** be in their classrooms at **8:15** or they will be marked tardy. Students can be dropped off at **8:00**.
- ✓ On-Line lunch ordering begins Dec. 17 and closes Jan. 7. Lunches begin on Jan. 19.



We're on the Web!

www.cassd63.org

Our website is going to be revised in the months to come - please continue to check the website for more information.

CONCORD STUDENTS ARE THE BEST!



Note Totes - Remember note totes are being sent via email and are posted on the District website
www.cassd63.org

