

Happy Friday Everyone!

This was a great week! We had our STREAM games on Sunday and the students did a wonderful job. One of our Rockin Roller Coaster Teams was asked to present at the 22:6 Gala in January. Great job to all and especially to our students and staff who worked tirelessly, gave of their "extra" time, and support our students. Thank you to all who attended as well to cheer them on! We also had our Christmas Concert on Wednesday! It was FABULOUS!! What a wonderful turnout, wonderful behavior, and wonderful spirit! Thank you to the parents for getting the kids out at night, the students for singing and ringing their hearts out, and to Miss Hill for her amazing work with the kids. A special thank you to Miss Hughes and the Art Club for their festive decorations! Thank you as well to all the parents that baked! It was a truly Holy Spirit filled evening! I am still working on getting kinks out of school messenger to be able to text - so hang in there because I am determined to make it work! There are many announcements below - so bare with me!

REPORT CARDS WERE SENT HOME TODAY!!!! We do believe there is a glitch in the system with the weighting of specials (they should be less than the core classes), so we will work on fixing that and send you a new one once it is fixed.

Breakfast with Santa is tomorrow from 9-11am. Come on down and have a little bite to eat and enjoy the smiles of children as they tell Santa all the things they would like. (By the way, target will have Hatchimals tomorrow morning and Walmart restocks starting at 9pm each night.)

SECRET SANTA SHOP is MONDAY!! Please remember to send the money in with your child. It will be open all day. Those families that have students here on Tuesdays and Thursdays only can certainly come in on Monday to shop. Our littlest shoppers will be going first starting first thing in the morning.

Our Advent Committee has worked very hard to make sure things are great for the kids this season. We are asking for volunteers (who MUST be VIRTUS trained) to come in and help with our Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Party on the 21st. We will need you from 10:30 to 11:30. If you can volunteer for your child's classroom, please let your child's HOMEROOM teacher know via email. We also need one parent per room to help celebrate by baking cupcakes for the dessert - just for your child's class. Again, please email your child's homeroom teacher if you are able. Our warming tree has been extended into the breezeway because there are so many wonderful donations. I am going to make FRIDAY next week our cutoff day so that we can get the donations to those that need them.

Our ski club was cancelled this season because we did not have enough people. Next year we will try again and we can start earlier so we make sure we get the discount and have more flyers!

Please take a look at our HSA Newsletter for DECEMBER! [st andrews newsletter dec.pdf](#)

A NOTE FROM MS. STAINSBY: The after school program will only be available Thursday, December 22nd, Friday, December 23rd, Wednesday, December 28th, Thursday, December 29th, and Friday, December 30th during Christmas break. I will send January calendars home Friday to see if we will be open January 2nd. Remember if you do not sign up and attend, or you sign up and don't attend, you will be charged a service fee. The number of people we bring in will be dependent upon those that sign up.

The BLACK AND GOLD GALA is off to a great start. If you are interested in helping, please let me know and I will forward the information to the committee. There will be more to follow on Monday!

*****VERY IMPORTANT*****PLEASE READ*****

We have two important issues that I need everyone to be aware of.

First, CHRONIC LATENESS. If you are regularly late (for reasons outside of medical concerns), it is a serious concern. NYS actually requires schools to REPORT students that are regularly late to Child Protective Services. Students typically late more than 18 times a trimester can be considered for retention, high school

acceptance will be in jeopardy, and it can result in poor social relationships with peers, as well as academic concerns. STUDENTS MUST BE IN HOMEROOM BY 7:30!!

Secondly, SCHOOL SAFETY. Our school has a fantastic resource in the form of Officer Milosich from the Kenton Police Department. The children have been introduced to him and he regularly walks through the building and stops into classrooms. He loves being here with the kids and was elated when he received Thanksgiving cards from our 5th graders! He has been helping us to streamline our school safety plan and to make sure that we are prepared for the unexpected. This is a difficult subject to discuss, but as I told my staff I would rather be uncomfortable and prepared versus comfortable and unprepared. We created a school safety team, made up of teachers. Their goal is to make sure that our students and staff are safe in the event of an emergency. Our most difficult discussion centered around a lock down. The lock down is used when there is imminent threat to life and safety. There is also a shelter in place (for medical emergencies, floods, etc.), lock outs (when there is an outside threat), and evacuations (like a fire drill). The lock down is the most serious and we hope that we never have to use it. However, it is important for all to know the procedures. Over the next week, students will be practicing with their teachers what to do in the event of a lock down. They will learn where the safest places are if they are not in their classroom. Officer Milo (as the kids call him) will be assisting us through the whole drill and subsequent drills as well. During a lock down the school is NOT allowed to communicate via phone and we are unable to release children until the go ahead has been given by emergency personnel. I want you to know that the teachers - every one of them - have taken this very seriously and have been exceptionally vigilant in their learning. Officer Milo has been able to set up an opportunity for us to also learn CPR and basic first aid. Our hope is we never have to use this knowledge, but our goal is to be prepared. The children were the first thought for every teacher - they are determined to be the children's guardians at every moment. I was incredibly proud of them at yesterday's meeting. Your child may come home and tell you that they were practicing a lock down and what they learned. Next week we will have our first drill. I will announce it as well so the students know the first time. When you can this weekend, please talk with your children and remind them to always be aware of their surroundings, tell an adult when they see something "not right", and to always listen to directions and stay calm when an emergency happens. This is not meant to scare anyone and there are not any threats to the school to warrant any concern, however, the staff and I would rather know what to do instead of scrambling in the event of a real emergency. An ounce of prevention goes a very long way. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation!

Have a great weekend!!

Peace,

Mrs. P