



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Theodora Dono

Parent – Teacher Conferences were held on December 1, 2011 from 1:00-3:00 and 5:00-8:00 that evening. I am very pleased to announce that we had ninety-seven percent of our parents and guardians in attendance for the afternoon and evening scheduled times. This is a very important day for students, parents and teachers. The opportunity to communicate about academic and social progress is essential to every child's achievement in school. We sincerely appreciate the support and effort you provide your children with at home. Together we can make a tremendous difference in their educational journey. Thank you for your commitment to education!

I would like to thank the Dudley PTO and the parents who prepared the delicious buffet for the teachers on the evening of conferences. A very special thank you to Mrs. Kelly Kozlowski, our P.T.O. building representative, who organized, decorated, and set up a buffet that was absolutely outstanding. I can't begin to tell you how much the teachers appreciated it!

The student holiday programs "Come Along to Holiday Land" in Kindergarten

and "A Winter Wonderland Tale" in Grade One were truly spectacular presentations. Mrs. Winans & Ms. Valentine were outstanding in preparing the students with the joyous songs and individual speaking parts. I thank all of you for attending and sharing in the Mason Road School Holiday Season Celebration!

In November, you received a memo requesting that in lieu of teacher and staff gifts, donations be made to New Hope and needy families in our community. The response has been tremendous! The staff of Mason Road School sincerely appreciate your generous holiday spirit and donations.

Also, many thanks to Laurie Jankowski, our library coordinator, and our many library volunteers. We truly appreciate your involvement and time commitment. You have made such a significant difference in our school. We look forward to seeing you after the vacation break.

I wish all of our Mason Road School families Happy Holidays and much happiness and good health in the New Year!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1 – Happy New Year!

January 4 - P.T.O. Meeting at Dudley Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.

January 4 – Commerce Banking Day

January 6 - Mrs. Dono's Lunch & Reading Club

January 12 – School Committee Meeting- Shepherd Hill at 7:00 p.m.

January 13 - Mrs. Dono's Lunch & Reading Club

January 16 – Martin Luther King Day (No School)

January 18 – Commerce Banking Day

January 20 - Mrs. Dono's Lunch & Reading Club

January 21-

January 23-26 – Curriculum Based Measures Testing

January 23 – School Council Meeting at 3:45 p.m. in the Conference Room

January 25 – School Committee Meeting- Charlton Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

January 27 - Mrs. Dono's Lunch & Reading Club

January 30 – P.T.O.Learning Store

A Message from the Dudley Fire Department – Capt. David J. Konieczny

Now that we are in the midst of our heating season, we have joined with the

Department of Fire Services in promoting the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign. With the cost of heating on the rise people may turn to alternative heating sources such as space heaters, pellet stoves or woodstoves.

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires in this state. No matter what type of heating system you are using it requires maintenance. You must have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually especially if you are using a wood or pellet stove. A build up of creosote within the chimney can lead to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide entering your home. The ashes from these stoves must be disposed of in a metal container with a lid and kept away from the house. Oil fired heating systems require annual cleaning and servicing in order to run efficiently and reduce the risk of producing those high levels of carbon monoxide. If the oil burner releases smoke or soot into your house, call for service. Space heaters must be kept three feet away from anything that can burn and use only heavy-duty extension cords. Always turn off when going to bed. Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in this state for use inside the home.

Heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide in the home, therefore it is especially important to maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every floor of your home during the heating season.

A Message from the Dudley Police Department – Chief Steven Wojnar

The weather is starting to get colder and even though we do not have much snow or ice, winter is certainly here. The

holiday season and snow often find children making the most of the winter. Although this should be a fun time, precautions should always be taken when enjoying outdoor activities. Always be sure to dress for the weather. Frostbite can occur in only a short period of time. Wear not only a proper jacket, but hats, boots, and gloves. Always be aware of your surroundings. Snow can cover potential hazards such as holes, storm drains, and rocks. This is especially important when sliding. Traveling at high speeds and colliding with something can result in injury or death in some circumstances. Always have an adult supervising and check the area before sliding. Also be aware of the roads, driveways, or other areas where there is traffic. Cars cannot always stop quickly on snow covered roads and it is very important not to be playing near these places.

A frequent question to the police department regarding skating asks, "Is the ice safe?" Certainly we will not declare any ice "safe" unless it is a controlled rink or another know location.

Any time water is moving below ice, there is the possibility of thin spots and dangerous areas. Ice should always be checked by an adult and children should always have supervision before using these areas.

The season can and should be fun. These events are more enjoyable when no one is hurt. Please take all the precautions to assure each others' safety. The Dudley Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a very happy new year.

