



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Theodora Dono

On Tuesday, November 21st, Family Literacy Night was held for our first grade students and their parents. Mrs. Hackenson, our Reading Specialist, along with the first grade teachers prepared a spectacular evening. I thank all of you for attending and for your strong support of literacy. Many thanks to our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Sean Gilrein, Mrs. Pamela Walsh, and Ms. Nancy Tully for the reading of Gumption!

On Tuesday, November 22th, the Kindergarten students gathered for their annual Thanksgiving Feast. They proudly arrived in their costumes singing joyfully about this wonderful holiday. In preparation, not only did they design and decorate their costumes, but they made corn bread, butter, popcorn, and many delicious traditional foods and beautiful centerpieces.

At the conclusion of the feast, the students sang about the many things that they are thankful for – their families, school, teachers, friends, and country. The Thanksgiving Feast was delightful from beginning to end!

Many invited guests joined in for the celebration. The list included Superintendent Gilrein, Chief Wojnar, School Committee Members and other administrators. I especially want to thank our teachers, assistants, and parents who worked tirelessly to make this happen!

In closing, Happy Holidays to all of our Mason Road School families. I look forward to seeing you at the student holiday shows that the children have been preparing for. Please check the calendar that follows for the dates and times.

~

Please note that Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, December 1st from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m. Our students will attend school in the morning and will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m. I look forward to seeing you in the afternoon and evening.

Thank you for a wonderful start to the year! Your support and commitment is sincerely appreciated.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 30 – Progress Reports to Parents

December 1 – Parent Teacher Conferences – 1:00-3:00 & 5:00-8:00 p.m. Early Release Day!

December 2– Mrs. Dono’s Lunch & Reading Club

December 6 - P.T.O. Meeting at Mason Road School – 6:30 p.m.

December 9 – Mrs. Dono’s Lunch & Reading Club

December 14 – Commerce Banking Day

December 14– School Committee Meeting at Shepherd Hill at 7:00 p.m.

December 14 - Holiday Shows- Grade 1 at 9:30 a.m. & at 11:00 a.m. (Snowdate – December 22nd)

December 15–Holiday Shows Kindergarten t 9:30 a.m. & at 11:00 a.m. (Snowdate – December 21st)

December 16 – Mrs. Dono’s Lunch & Reading Club

December 21 - Winter Begins

December 21 - Kindergarten & Grade 1 visits Shepherd Hill for the “Holiday Concert:”

December 21 – Snowdate for Winter shows for Grade 1

December 22 - Snowdate for Winter shows for Kindergarten

December 26– January 2– School Vacation

Happy Holidays!



A Message from Preschool

In preschool, we have been learning about families. The preschoolers have engaged in discussions about activities that they like to do with their families. A child's primary connection to the outside world is through a child's family. Children's first teachers are their family members. Children learn to communicate and develop social skills by observing and interacting with their families. They learn about cooperation, family values, and morals by being active participants in a family unit. Children benefit from spending time with immediate and extended family members,

There are many activities that families can do together. Families should spend time at meals together talking about their daily experiences. Children benefit from reading stories and playing games (Candyland, HiHo Cherrio, Chutes and Ladders, etc.) with their families. Children often enjoy helping with household chores such as sorting laundry, feeding pets, etc. A wonderful family activity that involves cooperation is cooking or baking together. There are many more activities families can do together. Young children enjoy spending time with their family members.

The preschool staff was very excited to have many families join us for our math day. The goal for this event was to help parents to learn about the math activities the preschoolers engage in while at school. There were four math centers focusing on sorting, patterning, graphing, and measuring. The preschoolers and their parents had the opportunity to complete the activities

and record their answers. It was a great success and a fun way to strengthen the home-school communication.

We have also been learning about thankfulness. The children have had many opportunities to share what they are thankful for. On November 18th and 22nd, we celebrated with our Harvest Feasts. The children made corn muffins, butter, and popcorn for our feast. Thank you for the donations of your time and various items. The preschool staff and children appreciate your support. Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

A Message from Kindergarten

The *Houghton Mifflin* Reading Program focused on a very important theme: "Family." We studied the letters t, b, and n and the sight words my, like and see. The theme accompanied our social studies focus of Veteran's Day and looking toward Thanksgiving. Veteran's Day was celebrated through different activities such as making red poppies, hats, banners, and parades to make the learning about the men and women who served this country come alive! In character education we focused on the theme of "Friendship" and spoke of ways to be a good classroom friend.

In science, we have studied the senses, family and the food pyramid (plate). We discussed eating healthy food and meals with food from each of these categories on the food pyramid. The children used their sense of hearing with sound boxes. They used their sense of touch to feel for shapes and objects in the feely box. The children were delighted with their sense of smell as they identified various

scents. We all used our sense of sight as we walked through our school to see the children's beautiful work on the bulletin boards. We studied heredity as we worked on our family trees.

As we began our Thanksgiving unit, students learned about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and the story of the first Thanksgiving. Students sang songs, listened to stories, made woven placemats, costumes and necklaces, and shared stories about how they celebrate the holiday. We shared a fantastic feast. We made cornbread, butter, popcorn and Pilgrim Punch. Students dressed in Pilgrim and Native American costumes as they sat down together to enjoy a meal and depict the first Thanksgiving. Thank you to all who donated items for the feast. It made our special day, even more special! We wish all of our students and their families a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

Please remember as the weather becomes colder that students should come to school dressed for the season with winter coats, hats, and mittens. We do take the children out to recess as often as weather permits, even if it is cooler.



A Message from First Grade

Well, another month has quickly come and gone and the children have settled nicely into their new roles as first graders. First and foremost, we would

like to thank the parents and guardians who were able to attend the Grade One Literacy Night held on November 21st. It seemed like everyone had a great time. It was also a nice opportunity to talk with you about what a typical week looks like in your child's classroom during our language arts block.

We have been reading stories in Theme 3 entitled, "Let's Look Around!" We have read about the seasons, plants, ice cream, a hen named "Hilda", and a trip to the aquarium. We continue to practice word families with short vowel sounds, possessive nouns, plural words, verbs with -s, -ed, and -ing endings, clusters with "r", and contractions. The children now have a spelling test every Friday, receiving the words to practice prior to the test. Please practice spelling these words with your child on a daily basis. We have just started Theme 4, "Family and Friends", a perfect theme for this time of the year.

In Math, we continue to reinforce taught concepts such as addition and subtraction, counting and trading pennies/nickels/dimes, counting up and back on a number line/hundred grid, telling time to the hour/half hour, and completing frames-and-arrows problems. Some new concepts the children are learning include daily math messages, reading a thermometer, measuring with standard and nonstandard units, and measuring to the nearest inch.

November has been a month to honor heroes...our Veterans. We also spent much of this month learning about the Pilgrims arriving on the Mayflower, Native Americans, and their very first Thanksgiving together. We hope you all

had a wonderful holiday. As always, we thank you for your cooperation and support.

A Message from the Kindergarten Music Teacher-Julie Winans

What a wonderful month we've had in music classes! We've been working SO hard to get ready for a big stage debut in the Mason Road School Kindergarten Holiday Show!! I'm already proud of all of their hard work and I know you'll be proud of the end result! Make sure to bring cameras and video recorders – you won't want to miss the opportunity to preserve the moment!!

A reminder – the holiday shows will be held on Thursday, December 15th (snow date – 12/22). Guests of students in Mrs. Lundquist's class, Mrs. Gould's class and Mrs. Penniman's class are invited to attend our 9:30 performance. Guests of students in Miss Abysalh's class, Mrs. Maglione's class and Mrs. Hooper's class are invited to attend our 11:00 performance. All children should wear a plain, white shirt and a dark colored pair of pants or a dark colored skirt.

I will be available at Parent/Teacher conferences at The Mason Road School from 1:00 to 3:00PM on Thursday, December 1st. Please stop by the library and say hello!! If you have a concern you'd like to address but your conference time is in the evening, please don't hesitate to call me at the school (I'm in the building on Thursdays only) or email me at jwinans@dcrsd.org and I'll be sure to get back to you.

I wish all of my kindergarten students and their families a very happy Thanksgiving!!

A Message from the Grade 1 Music Teacher-Kaitlin Valentine

The first graders have all been putting forth their best effort singing and learning their songs for their show, "A Winter Wonderland Tale." Shows will be held on Wednesday, December 14th. The shows will last approximately 20-30 minutes. Families with students in Mrs. Alden's class, Mrs. Faubert's class, and Mrs. Stefanik's class are invited to join us at 9:30 AM. Families with students in Mrs. Brogna's class, Mrs. Marrier's Class, and Mrs. Swenson's class are invited to join us at 11:00 AM. In case of inclement weather, the shows will be held Wednesday, December 21st. On the day of the show, please have your student wear dark colored bottoms and cool winter colors on top. Colors to consider: pastel blues, greens, and purples, or dark shades of those same colors (navy, dark purple, dark green, etc.). White or ivory colored tops would also be fine. Hope to see you there!



A Message from the Reading Specialist- Linda Hackenson

It was very nice to see the parents come with their children to the Grade One Family Literacy Night that was held on Monday, November 21, 2011. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful story, Gumption as it came to life through a power-point on the screen, along with the acting skills of our Superintendent, Mr. Sean M. Gilrein, District Curriculum Director, Miss Nancy Tully, Math Coach, Mrs. Pamela Walsh and prop assistant Miss Taryn Gilrein. Every family that attended was treated to their own personal copy of the book. During

the evening, parents and teachers enjoyed the opportunity to speak about first grade expectations as the children enjoyed completing a variety of activities. At the close of the Family Literacy Night the children were able to take activities home to play with their families. During the month of January, families of kindergarten children will be able to enjoy their own Family Literacy time at Mason Road School. More information will be coming at a later date.

Last month, I spoke about the importance of reading aloud to your child even once they have begun to read on their own. Research has shown this to be the single most important activity you can do to help your child succeed in reading. This month I would like to speak about the importance of literacy. Showing your child that you believe literacy is important, as a parent is extremely significant, as you are your child's first teacher and role model. If you involve your child with literacy activities at home, their success at school will be multiplied many times over. I hope you will find the following ideas helpful and enjoyable for both you and your child.

Kindergarten Activities to Develop Print Awareness

- As you read to your child have them become familiar with some important print awareness skills as a beginning reader. Discuss the main parts of a book, point out the front and back cover as well as the title and author. Show your child where you begin reading on each page and how you turn pages from left to right.

- Track the print with your finger from left to right. Show your child that there is a one-to-one correspondence between each word you say and the words on the page.
- Help your child make connections between print and pictures as you read. Have him/her find details in the pictures, point out letters everywhere and have your child name them.
- Encourage your child's reading of environmental print by looking at Logos from cereal boxes, toy companies, stores and fast-food restaurants, and some street signs. Recognizing those important words around us is an important rung on the ladder of reading success.

First Grade Activities to Increase Success

- Listen to your child read books sent home from school. Repeated readings help to build fluency and give your child a chance to reinforce all the sound-symbol relationships they have been learning at school. It also gives them repeated exposure to the sight words that are so important for early readers.
- Play word games. Write words that contain the letter-sound relationships your child is learning at school. Take turns choosing a card and blending the sounds together to make a word. Go through the pack again until your child is able to read them at a quickened pace.
- When you read together, make sure to stop and discuss the

meaning of the story. Help your child make connections between what's happening in the book and her own life and experiences, or to other books you've read together. Ask her detailed questions about the information in non-fiction books or characters and events in a fiction selection.

- Read magazines and newspapers together. Show your child how much can be learned from print about what's going on in other parts of the world.

(Ideas adapted from "A Child Becomes a reader-Kindergarten through Grade 3" published by the National Institute for Literacy)

A Message from the Physical Education/Health Teacher – Janet Strazzullo

Various activities are presented during the physical education classes for the students. Recently kindergarten and grade one students completed a unit of dance. Singing games are a part of this. The Hokey Pokey, The Farmer in the Dell, and BINGO were a few favorites. Some of the skills included learning left and right sides, identifying body parts, directionality and rhythm.

Running and tagging games were also played. When many students are moving at once spatial awareness is essential. This only increases safety in the gym. Skills such as following directions, listening, cooperation and taking turns are also essential to every class. These are incorporated weekly.

Your help reinforcing these at home is always appreciated.



A Message from the Art Teacher – Catherine Dube

Art projects for November focused around the First Thanksgiving long ago celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Indians and Thanksgiving celebrated today with our families and friends.

Kindergarten students traced their hands and created a turkey and added a crayon-drawn background. Horizon line and perspective were introduced. Next, kindergartners created a crayon resist Native American shirt and decorated with crayons and watercolor. Drawing with geometric shape, line, shape, pattern and the warm and cool colors were reviewed.

First grade children created beautiful, woven turkeys with feathers made of all the primary and secondary colors. The art of weaving was introduced. Students learned the names of the tools a weaver uses to create their wares: warp, weft and loom.

All lessons are done one step at a time to ensure that all students understand the art concepts presented. Individual assistance is always provided so that all children feel a sense of success.

Parents, Please know you are welcome to come to class during your child's art class to assist your little one.

A Message from the Team
Chairperson Pamela Boyle

What Can I Do If I Suspect My Child Has a Learning Disability?

With early recognition and targeted intervention, children with learning disabilities can be helped so that they can achieve as well as other youngsters do. If you suspect that your child has a learning disability, don't despair. The following steps recommend some of the important things that parents can do to help.

Collect information about your child's performance

Gathering and organizing information about your child's academic and social development will help you to effectively monitor progress over time. Meet with your child's teachers and other school personnel and develop a keen awareness of your child's ability to study, do class work/homework and finish the tasks that are assigned by teachers as well as those that are part of routines at home. In addition to keeping your own informal notes, be sure to maintain a file of all school-generated materials, including any standardized test results, report cards, progress reports and any descriptive summaries or notes from teachers. Also keep a record of your impressions at different points in your child's school career as well as what kinds of discussions you have had with school personnel and other professionals. (Hint: making sure to date this information can be very valuable in planning for your child.)

Talk with your child's teacher. Share your concerns with your child's teacher and ask about her observations of your child's performance, interactions with his peers, etc. Together you may

come up with strategies to try in the classroom and at home to support your child's learning and behavioral needs. Honest and open communication, together with some creative thinking and flexibility in planning, can go a long way toward discovering how best to address your child's unique needs. Working hand in hand with you, your child's teacher can help you identify available school resources and, if needed, provide much-valued information should you choose to have your child undergo a comprehensive educational evaluation.

Find ways to help

Changes can be made in classroom routines to help children with learning disabilities. Talk to your child's teachers about these ideas: reading aloud, allowing extra time on quizzes/tests, taping lessons and using assistive technology.

Know your child's strengths

Children with learning disabilities, just like their non-disabled peers, are often leaders in some areas and followers in others. In contrast to their sometimes severe weaknesses in areas like reading and math, some children with LD are outstanding athletes, or excel in creative areas like music, painting or sculpture. And some children, despite their learning disabilities in reading and spelling, are extraordinary authors. Focus on your child's strengths and help him or her overcome or circumvent difficulties. Participation in after-school activities and clubs are good ways for children develop their interests and talents, not to mention the social and emotional benefits they can reap from this stress-free time away from formal academics.

Work with your child at home

Help your child do homework by establishing a regular time and a specific place for it, and give lots of encouragement. Praise your child for work well done and help him or her practice good school behaviors at home.

Adapted from the work of Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities.



A Message from the Title 1 Teacher – Michelle Gray

November has been a very busy month! It was so nice to see many of our first grade students at DES's Math Night on November 17th. We also had a great time at the first grade Literacy Night held at Mason Road on November 21st. I look forward to meeting parents at Parent-Teacher conferences on December 1st to discuss your child's progress and development.

In Language Arts, we have continued practicing various reading strategies including decoding, blending and using picture clues to help us read new and unfamiliar text. We have been reading our Phonics Library Books as well as Leveled Readers, which are both part of our Houghton Mifflin Reading Program. We use PALS drills and the Moose Game for repeated practice of sight words and high frequency words. We will continue to work on developing comprehension skills. I will continue to send home decodable text stories that correspond with the skills that they are learning in their classrooms Please continue to read regularly with your child at home. Continuous reading and listening to your child read is one of the

most significant activities that you can do to help your child grow as a reader.

In our math groups we have been busy learning new math concepts and practicing previously introduced concepts and skills. We introduced the dime and have had lots of practice counting pennies, nickels and dimes and finding different ways to show the same amount of money. We have learned about frames and arrows and figuring out, "What's my Rule?" Children need to determine if the numbers are going up or down and then figure out by how much. It is like solving a puzzle! We have been working on telling time to the half-hour, exploring temperature and plotting data on line plots. We have also learned about odd and even numbers. Continued practice at home including using a number grid and counting by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s will help to prepare children for more complex concepts as we progress through the year.

A Message from the Speech Pathologist– Jessica Davis

How can you make mealtimes work for your family? Consider these tips that can engage your family in fun and meaningful mealtime conversations that foster your child's language and literacy development.

- **Find the time.** Mealtimes aren't just about eating. Mealtimes provide a time for families to share their ideas, their experiences, and their feelings. Finding time when the whole family can eat together is often the greatest challenge. Be sure to set aside at least a few nights a week for family mealtimes. When you cannot eat together as family, be sure to sit with your child while she

eats, so you have time to talk and share together.

- **Remove distractions.** To encourage meaningful talk, remove distractions. Turn off the TV. Turn down the radio. If possible, put the answering machine on, so you can talk to each other--not to a friend or colleague. Also try to have everything ready on the table **before** you sit down so you don't have to keep popping up to get the milk or the juice or the napkins. When possible, involve your child in the preparation. By creating a relaxing setting, you and your family will have the time to share and laugh together.

- **Include everyone in the conversation and practice turn-taking.** Family mealtime is not just a time for adult conversation. Instead, it should include everyone. By involving everyone, your child will learn about the give and take of conversation. For example, some children may just want to blurt out their thoughts and ideas, interrupting whomever may be talking. By patiently saying, "Hold onto that thought. Zayde is talking now," you can help your child learn about and practice the give and take of conversation.

- **Talk and share.** Mealtime can be a special time for parents and their children, offering them opportunities to talk about things that they think and wonder about. This time allows young and old family members alike to "tell the story" of their days and all the interesting, puzzling, or even frustrating things that happen. Children may also delight in hearing stories about when they (and their parents) were little.

- **Ask genuine questions about your child's daily activities and experiences.** Genuine questions, those to which you don't already know the answer, encourage genuine responses.

Sometimes though, very open-ended questions might not lead very far. Parents might ask, "How was camp?" and simply get "good" as the answer. Focusing on specific topics, however, can help generate more meaningful conversation. For example, questions such as, "What did you do in the pool?" or "What books did you read at the library?" might lead to lots of sharing.

- **Be a facilitator, not a director.** If your child initiates conversation about a topic that interests him, follow his lead, rather than trying to engage him in a different topic. For example, if your child mentions a book that he read at share time, you might ask, "What was it about?", "What did you like about it?", "Who was your favorite character?" You might also help him to think about what happened in the story or link the story to his own life by asking, "Does the Nanna in the story remind you of your Nanna? How?" By following your child's lead, you can help your child develop his interests, while deepening his appreciation of stories, words, and new ideas.

- **Eat and play.** Play while you eat. For example, you can invite your child to think about different categories by taking turns playing this game. Name four objects, three of which are in the same category and one object that is different. Then ask your child to name the object that's different from the rest. Other children enjoy solving simple word problems. For example, you might say, "You had three potatoes and Hannah gave you three more. How many do you have now?" Make the problems more challenging as your child gets older. Games such as these can help build your child's listening and problem-solving skills.

- **Plan a picnic.** One way to support your child's interest in the world is to plan family picnics around town or far from home. A picnic at the local playground can become an opportunity to observe and discuss people, animals, or nature. A box lunch at the circus can become an opportunity for your child to learn unique vocabulary words such as "ringmaster," "aerial," and "fierce." By using new words and talking about words, you broaden your child's vocabulary and help her to understand stories and information she hears read aloud.

For more information please visit:
http://www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/articles/tabletalk/ychild_kgartner_tabletalk.html

A Message from the Technology Teacher— Kelly Frederico

The Kindergarten classes have really been advancing in their computer abilities. They have been working on their drawing skills. I hope you enjoyed the Balloons that the children drew. It takes precision with the mouse to draw the balloons and strings so they line up. They are off to a great start with KidPix. They also learned how to print and exit the program using dropdown menus which is very difficult at this age. We will be learning about the rubber stamps and paint bucket in the beginning or December in KidPix. We also used Bailey's Book House to create some cards, they all had fun.

The First Grade worked in KidPix to create turkeys for Thanksgiving. They had three different levels to choose from. They really did a wonderful job. We also worked on creating self-portraits using KidPix. This is part one of a project that we will not be finishing until the end of the year, so you will all have to wait to see this great project!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

A Message from the School Psychologist – Theresa Veilleux

The importance of sleep. Sleep is important to everybody. When we sleep, we rest and gain energy for a new day. But sleep does more than that. When we dream, we process all the events of our daily life.

After a night without enough sleep, one feels exhausted and irritable. But after a good night's sleep, one feels rested, refreshed and full of energy. No wonder that it is so important to parents that their child sleeps through the night. It influences the entire family's life and well-being.

How much sleep does my child need?

- Sleep is important for the child's well-being.
- At night, the body produces more of the hormone that stimulates growth. So sleep is important for your child's development as well.
- Newborn babies sleep up to 16 hours per day. At first, they wake up every two or three hours to feed.
- From four months old, babies often start to sleep for longer periods of time.
- From six months old and up to one year, they often sleep five to six hours continuously.

- Children between one year and five years old sleep up to 12 hours each day.
- A pre-school child may still need to sleep 10 to 12 hours each day.
- A schoolchild sleeps about 10 hours each day.
- It is important to remember that each child's sleeping pattern is different. If a child is one year old and sleeps 10 hours each day, it is perfectly OK, as long as the child is happy and healthy.

Before parents start to worry about the amount of time their child sleeps, it is a good idea to look at the sleeping patterns of other family members. There might be a connection.

If your child has a difficult time falling asleep, start your bedtime routine earlier. Try soothing strategies such as a warm bath before bed, relaxing music, etc. Good sleep is essential to your child's emotional, behavioral, and academic well-being. Keeping with a routine on a regular basis will help to alleviate sleep problems and provide your child with consistency and security.

**A Message from the School Nurse –
Maureen Gagnon**

Did you know that head lice is the second most communicable disease among school aged children behind the common cold? In fact, more than 5 million children catch lice every year. If this happens to you and your family, **DON'T PANIC!!**

Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with cleanliness, nor does it reflect on you as a parent. Following the guidelines below can eliminate it.

1. Examine your child's head to be sure you know what the nits look like. They are tiny grayish-white eggs attached to the hair near the scalp, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.
2. Check all other family members to see if they are infested.
3. Use an effective head lice treatment.
4. Remove all nits (lice eggs). This can be very time consuming. Our school has a no nit policy.
5. Wash all clothes, bed linens and towels in hot water and dry in hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Items that can't be safely washed, such as stuffed animals, should be dry clean or stored in plastic bags for at least two weeks.
6. Clean combs and brushes in hot, soapy water. A good idea is to soak them for at least 10 minutes in water at 130 F.
7. Vacuum everywhere to make sure your home is free of lice. This includes carpets, mattresses, upholstered furniture, and anything else that might hold lice.
8. Comb and inspect the hair daily for the next two weeks. Repeat with the anti lice shampoo in 10 to 14 days.

Remember that lice survive only on humans and do not affect family pets.

However, the literature stated that they can survive several hours off their human host. To eliminate head lice and nits from your home and child, following these instructions should help. Doing a thorough job will prevent their spread in the neighborhood and school. One more point to remember is to always inform your child's school nurse so that she may address the problem in school. Together, we can stay on top of this problem.

A Message from the Library
Coordinator – Laura Jankowski

The students have settled in nicely to our library routine. They come to library class each week eager to check out a new book. I am quickly getting to know their interests!! Some students are drawn to the same subjects each week. It is wonderful to see how excited they are to take books out of the library. Please remember that if your child forgets his or her library book they will have to wait until they bring that book back before they can check out another book. So please try to help your child remember his or her book each week.

As always, if you have any books at home that you are looking to donate, we always welcome donations! If they are age appropriate (K-1), we would love to have them. You can bring donations in any time and leave them at the office with my name on them. The children love seeing new books in the library!!

Remember, reading to your child at home is time well spent. This will help foster their love of reading. I see it here first-hand how much these kids enjoy reading their books so please take the time to read that book with them at home!!

A Message from the Dudley Police
Department – Chief Steven
Wojnar

In the coming months, our department will be once again participating in a worthwhile program designed to save lives and prevent tragedies. As in past years, we will seek a grant from the Governors Highway Safety Bureau to fund high visibility traffic patrols, with an emphasis on seatbelt regulations and other traffic laws. The term “click it or ticket” appears on television and in other places and it refers to a program such as this. These patrols will take place throughout the year during specified periods. The purpose is to encourage everyone to drive safely and use their safety belts. Thousands of children and adults are injured or killed every year in automobile accidents. Many of these injuries could have been prevented if people took a moment to use seatbelts.

Parents have spoken to me or my officers about children who unbuckle themselves in cars. From an early age, parents must stress the fact the car does not move until the seatbelt is fastened. If this is a consistent practice, it will not be an issue and children may be quick to acknowledge the fact they are not buckled. The laws are not in place to punish people. They are there to encourage people to comply with rules in order to prevent accidents and save lives. All children must be aware of the importance of wearing seatbelts at all times when traveling in a car. Should parents need assistance in properly attaching car seats or with other matters of this nature, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thanks again.

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

We are now in the holiday season and with our decorating we potentially add hazards that may increase the risk of fire. By following these safety tips you can help prevent a tragedy this time of year.

Any lights and electric decorations you are using must be approved for their use by a testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and displayed in the manner for which they are intended. For example do not use any lights on the outside of your home approved for indoor use only. Never overload outlets. Unplug all lighting before leaving the house or going to bed. Never use open flame candles near live trees or other flammable decorations.

If you are using a live tree to decorate it must be watered daily and kept away from heat sources. Use a “non-tip” style tree stand and only fire retardant decorations. Never leave a lit tree unattended. Remember to dispose of your tree properly soon after the holiday before the needles dry out. It can take as little as 15 seconds for a dry tree to become fully involved and create sufficient heat to ignite an entire room within 2 minutes.

The membership of the Dudley Fire and Emergency Services extends to you and your families a happy and safe holiday season.

A Message from the Dudley PTO

Please visit our Facebook page, Dudley PTO for updated information, reminders, and involvement opportunities!

Upcoming/Current Events

Raffle Calendars are for sale now through the end of December. Raffle

winners will be pulled for the entire month of January!!

Holiday Shop! December 3, 8:00am – 12:00pm. Raffle calendars can also be purchased at the holiday shop. Please remember to retain the CASH envelope and bring it on the day of the Holiday Shop to shop with. **DO NOT** return it to the school. Also, please note that this year we are at Shepherd Hill High School in conjunction with the Lions Club, please support them by having breakfast first and then shop! One Stop eat and shop this year!

Conferences are to be held on Dec.1 for MRS and DES, flyers have already gone home. Please try to donate any way you can!

Things to know

The Dudley PTO is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a “non-profit charity”. Our 501© (3) status designates us as exempt from sales tax and donations to our PTO are tax deductible. Do you know we have enough members that if everyone only volunteered once or twice a year we would never have to ask for volunteers? If you do not find the fundraisers attractive, and wish to make a cash donation, please make checks payable to Dudley PTO and send it in an envelope with your child to school.

Meetings

Please join us for our next meeting; Tuesday, December 6 at Mason Road School at 6:30pm.

