North Salem Elementary

December 31, 2018

In the few hours left of December 2018, I wanted to share my gratitude for all of your "wonderfulness" that made this past month (and whole year) so special. Your overwhelming generosity ensured that 16 families had a brighter Christmas, with over 200 presents and gift cards donated by North Salem families. You don't get to see recipients' faces when they see the bags of packages or their tears of appreciation and relief. I do. I know how hard it is for some parents to have to ask, but they do for their children. On their behalf, I relay their "thank yous" to you; words that don't begin to capture how grateful they are to be a part of such a caring community.

Thank you for taking time out of the craziness of the season to attend musical presentations, figure out special activities for classrooms, and share yourself with your children and other members of our school community. Our Parade Float, Festival of Trees, and Movie Nights were times to come together as a community and we thank PTA and the incredible volunteers who made these events happen. In school we came together as a community to celebrate the first trimester’s accomplishments, view our schoolmates’ trees, and in song on several occasions!

Kudos to our super staff who in and around special events kept students' behavior on track and kept everybody moving forward with their learning. I'm sure you can imagine how challenging that was at times! Jolly and Jingle, our two elves-on-our-shelves-and-other-places, had a great time and lots of great things to share about your children.

I loved looking at all of the cards you sent and am humbled by your personal notes and gifts. This week has been a quiet week at school, a good one for me to get (almost!) caught up with reports and planning. I look forward to seeing the faces of your children again on Wednesday, January 2nd. THEY truly are my best gifts!

Here’s a few things as we all ready to transition back to “regular” school routines

- **19-20 Kindergarten** – District online signups start January 14th if you know anyone who has a child who will be 5 by September 30, 2019. Go to https://sau57.org/register/kindergarten. **Exciting news is that we are hopeful to offer FREE FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN to ALL students!!** Be prepared to register early to ensure placement at North Salem! This plan is dependent upon our March vote. Go to the link and have a look for more information.
- **WinterKids** – is a program out of Maine to encourage NH and ME students to get out and take advantage of winter! Check out www.winterkids.org for activities and discounts.
- **Dental Education & Services at NS** - All students will be participating in lessons on dental health presented by the Dental Health Collaborative. Screenings and treatments will take place next week if you signed up. If you are new to us, forgot to fill out the form, and want your child to be screened, please contact nurse Halina Tarczon. This is a tremendous service to our students who may not receive regular dental care.
- **Winter Clothing** - Please make sure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing to go outside and play. If you want it returned when it gets lost, LABEL it!!!! Kids rarely recognize their own clothing once it's lost. Trust me on this one! When we get snow, Mrs. Connal will be doing her snowshoe unit with grades 3-5. **ALL 3-5 students will need snowpants and boots for this unit. We do have some loaners. If it is a struggle to provide winter clothing for your child, please contact me. We can help out.**
- **Arrival Time** - Please help get us all get back on track by making sure that you drop your child off by **8:45 AM at the latest.** Children who come in after are at a disadvantage in starting their school day off in a non-rushed, orderly way. Not to mention a missed opportunity for play and interactions with friends......
- **January** – was thought to have been named for the Roman god of beginnings and endings, Janus. The new year is a good time for us to look back with students on where they are in their learning and to look forward in setting new goals. When we return, teachers will take time to reflect and review classroom expectations and routines and perhaps adjust or rework them as a class. Please continue to support their efforts.

The new year provides us with an opportunity to learn from past lessons and apply them anew. May your new year bring growth, fulfillment, success, joy, and love.

Warmly,

Janice