**Spirit Day on 1-18-19** – NS has a Spirit Day this Friday – Patriots Day to cheer our team onto a Championship Sunday win!!! Students can show their school (and football) spirit by wearing Patriots gear or red, white and blue – Go Pats!

**19-20 Kindergarten** – District online signups started January 14th if you know anyone who has a child who will be 5 by September 30, 2019. Emails will be sent to parents/guardians on February 1st with tentative kindergarten placement. Go to [https://sau57.org/register/kindergarten](https://sau57.org/register/kindergarten) for more information. **Exciting news is that we are planning to offer FREE FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN to ALL students!!** Be prepared to register early to ensure placement at North Salem! We are filling up VERY fast!

**Drop Off Safety** – I am concerned about student and parent safety during morning drop offs. I know many of us are in a rush in the morning. However, I would ask you to be patient and wait to leave after your drop off if there are cars still in front of you. Many of our students can get themselves out of their cars safely by themselves. But others, notably our younger children, may need assistance, or may have to get out on the drivers’ side of the car. Waiting a minute or two may feel like a long time, but this is a small price to pay for the safety of our children. If you know it takes your children a chunk of time to disembark with winter clothing, bags, and backpacks, pull up and over near the handicapped parking to assist your children and allow cars behind to go.

**Spirit Day Winners** – Last week’s winners for our Crazy Socks Day were: in 3rd place Grade 5, in 2nd place Grade 2 and in 1st place with 92% participation Grade 1. The winning grade level gets to choose a special activity – and this year there will be a pizza or ice cream party for the winning-est grade overall in June.

**Dental Education & Services at NS** - Screenings and treatments took place earlier this week if you signed up. This is a tremendous service to our students who may not receive regular dental care. We are grateful to the Children’s Dental Network for the wonderful care they take of our students and the important information they share about keeping teeth healthy. Good habits for life start now!

**No School** – A reminder that there is no school for students on Monday, January 21st for Civil Rights Day and also on Tuesday, January 22nd for a Teacher In-Service Day.

**5th Grade Band Concert** – Kudos to Ms. McDonough and the 5th Grade Band students for their Winter Concert Tuesday. It was a wonderful performance for shared families and school mates – well done! Even more impressive when you consider there has only been 24 hours of instruction since students started making those squeaks and clangs back in September.

**Job Opening** – How would you like to earn some extra money while your children are at school? North Salem has an opening for a recess/lunchroom assistant from 11:00 – 2:00 each day. More information can be found at [www.sau57.org](http://www.sau57.org), click on Salem School District and scroll to the bottom of the page for employment or call Mrs. Russell at 893-7062 for details.

**The Book Fair is Coming!** Your child will be bringing home information for our Scholastic Book Fair that takes place the week of February 4-8th.

**4 NAEP Testing** – Our Grade 4 students will be taking part in NAEP testing on February 8th. This is a national test to gather data on how our students are performing. We will not get individual or school results.

**Change of Information** – If you have had any changes to your contact information since the start of the school year please send a note or email to Mrs. Russell, [jrussell@sau57.org](mailto:jrussell@sau57.org) so that phone numbers and addresses are up to date.

**Food Drive** – Our VIPS Food Drive committee will be collecting food for our Salem food pantries from January 23 through February 1. Please refer to the notice sent home earlier this week for the food items needed the most but all donations are welcome. This Food Drive is sponsored by one of our fourth grade volunteer committees.

Warmly,

Janice