



DECEMBER 2018



F.P. Donnelly
Elementary School

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy December! I can't believe we are already into the second quarter of school.

Parent/teacher conferences are planned for this month. It is very important for all parents/guardians to attend a conference time. All faculty and staff members will be in the building so you can discuss your child's progress so far this year.

Our December character education word of the month is 'KINDNESS'. It's a great time of year to spend helping friends and family, encouraging random acts of kindness and showing our students the importance of helping one another. Ask your child what we are doing in school to promote and celebrate kindness and compassion.

We have several activities to look forward to during the month of December, including our annual winter concert, the first Donnelly Bazaar and the PTA family movie night featuring *Smallfoot*.

Wishing you a happy December, Joyful Holidays and a pleasant winter break!

Jill Rich



REMINDER

It is important that your child(ren) attend school daily and on time. Every minute counts towards providing the best educational experience for your child. We'd like to work with you to ensure our students are attending daily. If you need assistance, please contact us here at school. For more information on school attendance, visit: www.awareness.attendanceworks.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * *
- * Thur., Dec. 6 - 9:30/6:30 - Winter Concert
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- * Fri., Dec. 7 - Donnelly Bazaar
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- * Thurs., Dec. 13 - PTA Meeting
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- * Fri., Dec. 14 - Noon Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences
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- * Fri., Dec. 14 - PTA Movie Night at 6:30 - *Smallfoot*
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- * Wed., Dec. 19 - Board of Education Meeting
- * *
- * Fri., Dec. 21 - Noon Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- * *
- * Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 - Winter Recess - No School
- * *

CHARACTER EDUCATION ACTION OF THE MONTH:

"KINDNESS"

Kindness Matters!

Practice Random Acts of Kindness!

* "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around!"

- L.F. Buca

* "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

- Aesop

* "Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."

- Lao Tzu

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Pre-K is learning how to use a shelf marker to select their book. They are also working hard to remember to bring their books back to each library class so they can take out another book. We went over how to care for their book while they have it so it stays clean and dry. They enjoy having books read to them and coloring a worksheet that goes along with the book.

The BK and kindergarten classes are learning how to use shelf markers to select their books. We went over how to care for their book while they have it, so it stays clean and dry. Both classes are also working hard to remember to bring their books back to each library class. They enjoy having books read to them and coloring a worksheet that goes along with the book.

The first and second graders enjoy listening to books that I read to them. They also enjoy listening to books read to them on the computer and taking a quiz that asks them questions about the book. They are completing a worksheet that goes along with the book we read.

The third grade classes are getting ready to learn about fiction books and how they are classified so they can select from the fiction section. They enjoy having books read to them and completing a worksheet that ask questions about the book. **The fourth grade** class is working on a research project about candy that they choose to research. They also enjoy reading books aloud from the TV screen (EPIC). **The fifth graders** are working on a state project that will be displayed in the hallway when they are done. They will be learning how to work with the online card catalog to see the available books we have in the library.

Some additional things they will be learning this year include: the Dewey decimal system, parts of a book, how to use a dictionary, different research projects using resources we have in the library, and they will be exploring the online card catalogs to look up books they would like to check out.

Mrs. Dennison
Donnelly Library



MUSIC CORNER

Please join us on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. for our Annual Winter Concert featuring our Fifth Grade Advanced Band, Fifth Grade Advanced Orchestra and Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus.

Parents are reminded that students should arrive at school 30 minutes before the concert. Student dress code for the concert is black dress slacks or long skirts and tights, white dress tops, and black dress shoes. No jeans or sneakers are allowed for the daytime performance or the evening performance! Thank you and we look forward to sharing our hard work and wonderful winter tunes with you!

Musically Yours, Mrs. Stafford & Mr. Hine

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Another exciting part of December is Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences are a great opportunity to receive important information regarding your child's educational journey. As an active partner in your child's education, you can enhance the collaborative conversation by coming prepared with questions and comments. This is your chance to ask questions, provide insights and express your hopes and dreams for your child.

Talk to your child before the conference. Find out if they have any questions or concerns they might want to bring up at the conference.

Make a list for the meeting. You might include questions, such as:

- How can you, the teacher, and the school work together to help your child?
- What can I do to help my child with subjects he/she finds difficult?
- What types of tests do you give? How often?
- How often do you assign homework? What types of homework assignments can I expect to see?
- What is my child's favorite subject and/or least favorite subject? How do you know?
- What can I be doing at home to reinforce what was taught in class?

Together, as a team, we create successful learning opportunities! Enjoy your conference!!



PARP

Be Part of the Team-READ!

We have completed the first month of PARP for this school year and we are off and running! This year's theme, *Be Part of the Team-READ!*, has a double meaning. By being part of our Donnelly Reading Team, students' monthly reading will help us beat last year's total of over 14,600 books/chapters read! Also, each month, we will be highlighting a specific team sport. November was soccer and December is swimming. Look for your child's reading log at the beginning of each month, read and record the books read, and sign and return the log at the end of each month. It's that simple.

Each month we will be having school-wide activities involving reading as well as sports related activities for those who return their reading logs.

Thank you for encouraging your children to read at home for fun. It is a healthy habit to have! Our running tally of the number of books/chapters read will be posted in the lobby throughout the year.

Happy reading,
Your PARP Committee



NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

- * **Pre-Kindergarten and Beginning Kindergarten** - We finished our Rainbow Fish by painting watercolor paint on our paper. Children traced and cut the fish. Details were added such as eyes, fins and scales to complete our fishy. Good job kiddos!! :)
- * **Kindergarten** - Children painted with watercolor paint on our painted line paper. Students learned how to hold and paint with a paintbrush. We also learned how to clean our brush in between colors. They did a great job. Next, we completed a clay mouse by creating a pinch pot from clay. We then used our pinchy fingers to make the ears and nose. Eyes and whiskers were drawn into the clay. Great job kids!!
- * **First grade** - To finish our cat collage, children added leaves to our cat collage. They came out fantastic!! Students created a monster drawing using shapes. Next up, we will be creating a monster from a clay pinch pot.
- * **Second grade** - We created textured paper by using a textured plate underneath a piece of paper. Using line and shapes, second grade drew a cut raccoon. Next, we will paint a textured bark and a background for our animal. They are doing a great job!!
- * **Third grade** - Students used lines to divide up a white piece of paper. In each new space, they will be drawing a pattern using line and shapes. Watercolor will be added to our patterns when completed. Then, 3rd grade will learn how to create a 3d house from cardboard. They will be painted and added to our patterned background.
- * **Fourth grade** - Students reviewed how to weave with paper in preparation for weaving with yarn. They will start to create a bag by weaving both sides of their loom. Looking forward to seeing how these turn out! :)
- * **Fifth grade** - We have learned about one point perspective, which is a drawing technique artists use to make something look three dimensional. Fifth graders have been practicing drawing a 2-d shape and turning it into a 3-d shape by using a vanishing point. Good job 5th grade!!

* Students are doing an awesome job with all of their projects...keep up the good work!!!

* Mrs. Ray, Art Teacher





ROCK ON CAFÉ

Hi! My name is Josie Albrechta. I am the Cook Manager here at Donnelly.

- When sending in money, please send it in an envelope or change purse with your child's name and their teacher's name on it.
- If your child owes money, they must have money in hand to buy ice cream or extra items. Ice cream and extra items cannot be charged.
- If you need to contact me, my phone is 775-0176ext. 2109 and my hours are 6:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Call me if you need anything.
- You can go on the web to check out your child's account or if they have any IOU's @ www.svsabers.org, so check it out.

THANK YOU!

A Community working together to help others; this is exactly what these organizations, companies and individuals did.

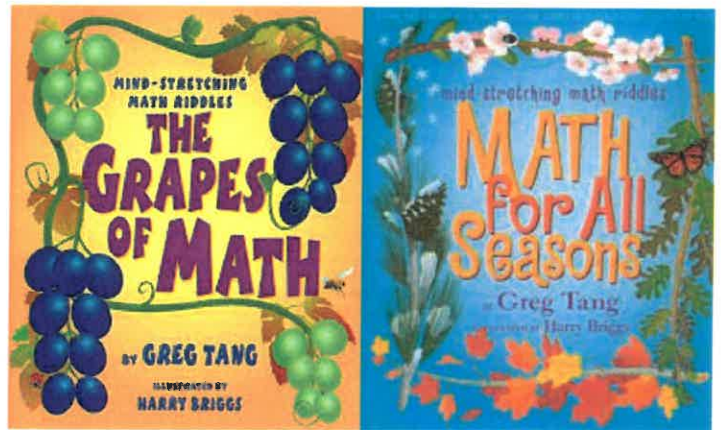
Their very generous donations helped our school put together Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Baskets for families in our community.

Donnelly can't thank you enough for your kindness!

- Conklin Presbyterian Church
- Kirkwood United Methodist Church
- Johnson Outdoor
- SEFCU
- Ardagh Group
- Donnelly Parents and Staff

Math Corner

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* With the holidays approaching, why not consider
* gifts that will enrich your child's educational
* journey? Think about a deck of attractive new
* flash cards. How about a game that uses dice or
* numbers? There are also many entertaining math
* books available. Try any of the titles by Greg
* Tang or one of the ones using candy to practice
* math concepts. What a fun way to learn!



COLD WEATHER IS ON ITS WAY...

* With winter rapidly approaching, it is important to
* remember to dress your child according to the
* anticipated weather. Please see that he/she wears
* boots when the ground is wet or covered with snow,
* as well as a hat, mittens and heavy coat.

* Recess will take place outside during reasonable
* weather. Students may have the opportunity to go
* sledding on some days. Students need to wear snow
* pants if they plan to sled. Students are not allowed
* off the blacktop without wearing boots. It is
* important that everyone comes dressed so that the
* class may enjoy outdoor play. Please be sure to label
* everything.





Message from the Nurse

Here are a few ways to stay healthy this winter and free from the flu according to the CDC:

The CDC recommends a three-step approach to fighting influenza (flu). The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year. But if you get the flu, there are prescription antiviral drugs that can treat your illness. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women. Finally, everyday preventive actions may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu.

- **If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.**
- **While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.**
- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.**
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.**

Everyday preventative actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses including flu.

Here's to a Healthy Winter!!

Your School Nurse,

Mrs. Rebecca L. Flanders, RN



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December News from Donnelly PTA

Ice Cream Schedule for December -If you are unable to fulfill your ice cream duty, please contact Jessica Kinney @ 607-348-7473 as soon as possible so we can get a replacement. On days that no one shows up, there is no ice cream for the kids that day. Volunteers should be there no later than 11 a.m. and you will be there until approximately 12:30 p.m.

Dec 4th-Bill Dumian, Dec 5th- Stephanie Reeve, Dec 6th- Jennifer Fancher

Dec 11th-Jessica Morris, Dec 12th-Kelly Diffendorf, Dec 13th-Leah Terry

Dec 18th-Bill Dumian, Dec 19th-Laura Dominguez, Dec 20th- Vicki Patch

Holiday Concert - Dec 6th (4th/5th grade chorus and band) there will be cookies and punch provided to you following the concert courtesy of Donnelly PTA.

First Annual Donnelly Bazaar Friday, Dec 7th 6pm to 8pm - We have local vendors/craftsmen to help with your holiday shopping. Please come out to support. We are asking for donations of baked goods and last year's wrapping paper and/or gift bags. Contact Sarah Hollenbeck at 341-0259 or on our facebook page.

****PTA meeting is December 13th at 6 pm in Cafetorium. Child care is available by our HS Yes Leaders. We will go over our fundraising efforts and upcoming events.**

MOVIE NIGHT Dec 14th, 6:30 in Donnelly Cafetorium - "Smallfoot"

HOLIDAY HOUSE (aka Santa's Secret Shop) will be Dec 12th, 13th and 14th during school and we will also have it up for the Movie Night on the 14th for parents to attend as well. More details will be out soon.

FUNDRAISERS Our Blaze Pizza fundraiser made around \$100, clothing sale scheduled to be ready for pickup mid-December and the Square 1 Art scheduled to be ready for pickup 12/18. Save Around Books will be updates on Facebook page.

AMAZON SMILE: Please remember while shopping at Amazon this holiday season to use this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7005133>. A portion of your purchase goes to the Donnelly PTA.

MEMBERSHIP If you have not gotten your membership yet, please do so. It is only \$5.00 per school year and there are no obligations. Your membership entitles you to vote in any of our decision makings. We are always looking for new faces and new ideas. We currently only have 67 members. New this year they are asking for student members geared more for the middle and high school students as well.

PARP (People As Reading Partners) Please continue to have your child read or you read to your child every day and also through Christmas break.

BOX TOPS Keep saving those labels. Information coming in January 2019.

Join our Facebook page at Donnelly PTA where we post reminders of upcoming events, request donations, people post pictures from the events, a lot of other community questions/answers. A majority of our events are also on the school calendar that you should have been mailed in the beginning of the year or there is also one on the SVSABERS.ORG website.

Donnelly PTA executive board changes to officers: President is now Michelle Penny rmpenny@verizon.net and Vice President is now Jessica Kinney kkinney42410@gmail.com, no other changes to any other officers.

