



# NOVEMBER 2018



F.P. Donnelly  
Elementary School

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

November is a time for us to give thanks. Donnelly's character education word of the month is "Thankfulness" and students are talking, in class, about what this means to them. Please ask your child what they are doing to support this important character trait. How are they showing thankfulness and appreciation?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for taking the time to read with your children, review schoolwork, help with homework, communicate with your child's teacher and the numerous other things you do to support your children and our school. With home and school working together we are sure to reach our goals.

This month we welcome Mrs. Wendy Stafford to the Donnelly family as our music education teacher.

November kicks off our PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) program. It is designed to engage and involve parents, guardians and other adults in fostering the love of reading in our children. Be on the lookout for information and ways you can support your child.

We are continuing to highlight the special things our students do here at school during our monthly CUBS assemblies. Be sure to ask your child about our program and what it means to be a member of our Saber CUBS.

As always, thank you for your support and partnership.

Sincerely,  
Jill Rich



## DATES TO REMEMBER



- \* Thurs., Nov. 1 - 6:00 pm - PTA Mtg.
- \* Mon., Nov. 5 - PARP Kick-off
- \* Fri., Nov. 9 - Pasta Palooza
- \* Mon., Nov. 12 - Veteran's Day - No School
- \* Wed., Nov. 14 - Board of Education Meeting
- \* Fri., Nov. 16 - Report Cards issued
- \* Nov. 21 - 23 - Thanksgiving Break - No School
- \* Wed., Nov. 28 - School Picture Make-ups

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION ACTION OF THE MONTH:

### "THANKFULNESS"



## REMINDERS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

### Illness

We are in the season of colds, flu and strep; some simple rules apply when trying to decide to keep a child home. If **ANY** of these apply, please keep your child home.

- Persistent fever greater than 100.4 degrees orally, including fever that requires control with medication
- Child is too sleepy or ill from an illness, like vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- Sore throat that is severe along with fever, feeling ill for more than 48 hours, or after known exposure to a confirmed case of strep throat infection
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth, rash on other body parts; or a rash in various stages including boils, sores and bumps that may be chicken pox; or a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever
- Red, runny eyes that distract the child from learning
- Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache
- Severe ear drainage or pain
- Severe headache, especially if accompanied with fever
- Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.

### Head Lice

Head lice are very common. Lice do NOT carry disease but are a nuisance and do spread quickly. They do not jump or fly. Lice make the head itch. The best way to prevent head lice is to keep your child's hair up, encourage your child to NOT share hats, scarves, combs, brushes, or clothing. If you suspect that your child may have lice, you can have them checked by the school nurse or your personal physician. There are many over the counter treatments available and prescription options as well. Please call the Health Office if you have any questions at 775-9108.

### Medication

The term "medication" includes any over the counter medications such as cough drops, cold medicine, nasal spray, throat spray, Tylenol, Advil, Benedryl, etc. as well as prescription medications. If your child requires **ANY** medication at school, they need a doctor's order. We do have **STOCK** medications in school this year such as Tylenol, Advil, Benadryl, cough drops, triple antibiotic cream, anti-itch cream. There is a stock medication form available in the Health Office. This still requires a doctor to complete it. Any other medications must be brought in by an adult. They cannot be carried on the bus. All medication must be administered by the nurse unless a student has an order from their doctor stating they can self-administer.

Thank you for your cooperation!!

Your School Nurse,  
Rebecca L. Flanders, RN



**BUS SAFETY**

Riding the bus is a privilege. It is important that students remember and practice proper bus conduct each and every trip to and from school. This includes listening to all instructions, using kind words with an inside voice and staying seated at all times.

This month, we practiced what it "looks like and sounds like" to be safe on the bus, as well as what to do during an emergency.

Our school bus drivers and monitors do so much to keep our kids safe each and every day. An easy way to show appreciation is with a "Thank you"! Encourage your child to practice bus etiquette and to say thank you every ride, every day!

In 1939, New York educator Franklin W. Cyr, a professor at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, convened a safety standards conference of educators, engineers and safety experts to consider ways to improve safety in transporting students to their schools. The objective of the conference was to establish national school bus construction standards for the United States, including the standard color of yellow-known officially as the National School Bus Chrome. That conference on April 10-16, 1939, resulted in the adoption of National School Bus Chrome as the official color of the school bus in America with multiple improvements being made to school buses and school bus safety over the years. "National School Bus Chrome" was chosen for its high visibility and sharp contrast to the black lettering that identified the school district operating the bus.

The Yellow School Bus is an icon in our State and our Nation, with its bright yellow color reminding all that our children are on their way to greet their teachers and classmates in their journey to prepare for life; and the Yellow School Bus has, due in large part to its distinctive color, kept our children safe each day for over 75 years on their way to schools each morning and back home to their families at the end of each day.

**STUDENT DROP-OFF**

Our drop off area is beginning to become very crowded in the mornings and afternoons. If you are dropping off your students, please remain patient.

It's important we remember safety first:

- Stay on the correct side of the road
- If you are getting out of your car, park. This way traffic can continue to move freely.

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**ROCK ON CAFÉ**

Hi! My name is Josie Albrechta, your Cook Manager here at Donnelly. Here is some important information that you need to know:

- When you send breakfast or lunch money in, send it in an envelope, wallet, or change purse, so the money will not get lost.
- Call and check your child's account for any IOU's. If your child has an IOU, they need to bring cash to purchase ice cream.
- If at any time you need a free or reduced form, I can send one home or you can pick one up outside the office.
- If you need to contact me, my phone number is 775-0176 ext. 2109, and my hours are 6:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Call me if you need anything. I can also be reached by email at [jalbrech@svsabers.org](mailto:jalbrech@svsabers.org).

You can go on the web to check out your child's account @ [www.svsabers.org](http://www.svsabers.org), so check it out.

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## NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

**Pre-Kindergarten and Beginning Kindergarten** We learned the “Larry the Line” poem in class. Even Larry the Snake made an appearance. We are learning about horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines and Larry the Snake is helping us. Students then drew a variety of lines on paper. Next, we will paint watercolors on top. We will be making a Rainbow Fish with our watercolor lined paper. We are super excited to paint! :)

### Kindergarten

We learned the “Larry the Line” poem in class. Even Larry the Snake made an appearance. We are learning about horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines and Larry the Snake is helping us. Students then drew a variety of lines on paper. Next, we will learn how to paint with watercolors. We will paint the order of the rainbow in between our lines. Students may even create a pattern with their colors. We are super excited to paint! :)

### First grade

We learned the “Larry the Line” poem in class. Even Larry the Snake made an appearance. We are learning about horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines and Larry the Snake is helping us. Students painted a variety of lines on colored paper. Next, we are tracing, cutting and gluing the eyes, nose and mouth for a collage Cat. Details will be added to complete these masterpieces. They look adorable!!

### Second grade

We are using a variety of shapes to create trees that will be overlapped and glued into a fall landscape. Students will add stylized lines to each tree and also tree trunks. These will be a great representation of a simplified fall landscape. I can't wait to see how they turn out!!

### Third grade

Students traced two leaves and added vein details inside them. Next we are creating a watercolor background using fall colors. Students will then cut out their leaves with black paper behind it. This will serve as a silhouette (shadow) for the leaf when it is glued to our background paper. Fall is in the air in the art room! :)

### Fourth grade

Students used real leaves and printed them onto black paper using white paint. Next, we added colored pencil to bring them to life. Students will cut them out and glue them onto white paper. Fall words will be added around their leaves to complete this project. They are turning out fabulous! :)

### Fifth grade

We are finishing up their Day of the Dead collage designs. They used lines and shapes to add designs to their sugar skulls. Color has been added and they look great. Next we will be “traveling” to Mexico to create Mexican (circular) mirrors.

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

Mrs. Ray, Art Teacher



### Math Corner



#### Why Play Games?

Adults and children of all ages love to play games because they are fun and engaging! Games can also provide children opportunities to explore fundamental number concepts, such as the counting sequence, one-to-one correspondence, and computation strategies.

Engaging mathematical games provide opportunities for children to deepen their mathematical understanding and reasoning. Games are an important tool for learning. Here are some advantages:

- Playing games encourages strategic mathematical thinking as children find different strategies for solving problems.
- Games provide opportunities for practice and support students' development of computational fluency.
- Games have the potential to develop familiarity with the number system and with "benchmark numbers" - such as 10s, 100s, and 1,000s while provide engaging opportunities to practice computations.

Any game involving dice or numbered cards can help deepen your child's math knowledge. Some of our favorite on-line games can be found at [GregTangMath.com](http://GregTangMath.com). There are also many math apps for tablets or iPads such as:

- Motion Math
- Math vs Zombies
- Free Kids Counting Game
- Math Puppy
- Math Ninja
- Ordered Fractions
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade math
- MobyMax

Have fun at playing games with your student, and encourage math growth at the same time!

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### Music Corner

We have had a great start to the year in music. We are looking forward to an awesome concert on December 6th. This concert will feature the 5th Grade Band and Orchestra as well as Chorus.

Mrs. Perkins has been preparing the chorus for the concert. After several rehearsals our pieces have started coming together.

After five lessons, fourth grade band has been doing very well. They should be practicing 4 to 5 times a week. You should start hearing songs such as Hot Cross Buns, Au Claire de la Lune, and Sleep Baby Sleep. Fifth grade should also be practicing their band music for the upcoming concert.

Mrs. Miller has also started orchestra lessons and our new music teacher Mrs. Stafford will be joining us on November 5th. Fourth graders have learned how to hold their instrument and play tunes including Hot Cross Buns, Mary Had A Little Lamb, and the Blues. Fifth grade should be practicing their orchestra music for the upcoming concert.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with your students this year.



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**From Mrs. Stilloe  
School Social Worker**

The holidays are approaching quickly and Donnelly has been gathering food for our Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to help families in our area. Each class was asked to bring in a specific non-perishable food item. We will be accepting food donations until November 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much for all your donations!

- Pre K & Kindergarten Classes - boxed stuffing
- BK & First Grade Classes - boxed potatoes
- Second Grade Classes - canned corn
- Third Grade Classes - canned beans
- Fourth Grade Classes - canned cranberry
- Fifth Grade Classes - canned gravy

The CUBS closet, located at Brookside Elementary, is open to any families/students in need of winter clothing this year. The closet is stocked with coats, snow pants, boots and other clothing items. If you would like to browse the closet please call Mrs. Barry at 669-4705 and if you would like to make any donations to the CUBS closet, please call Mrs. Barry or Mrs. Stilloe at 775-9149.

The Donnelly Staff wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

**Mrs. Stilloe  
Donnelly School Social Worker**

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**Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest**

\* Red Ribbon Week was October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.  
\* Our theme this year is "Life is Your Journey, Travel Drug Free".

\* A flyer went home explaining the Yes Leads Poster Contest. Students should return their posters to the school by November 16<sup>th</sup>.

\* All winners will be notified by November 21.  
\* The contest will feature regional winners from Broome, Tioga, Chenango and Delaware Counties who'll be honored at a special reception on Saturday, December 8. Each family who attends will receive four free tickets to that night's Binghamton Devils Game! Amazon gift cards will be awarded as prizes! Participating classrooms will also be eligible to win a prize package!

\* If you have any questions about the poster contest, please contact Mrs. Stilloe.

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## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

### DID YOU KNOW?

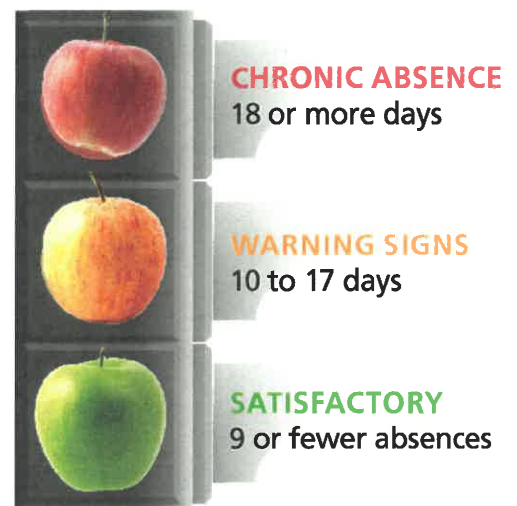
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)