

Good News from Goodwin

ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2014

November just flew by for us with conferences and Thanksgiving. My first Goodwin Thanksgiving Feast was so joyful. Thank you to all of our parents who made it possible. I would also like to **thank Linda Spencer and Judy Campbell who did all the cooking and Cheryl Courteau and Dotty Kozelka who did the organizing.** So much preparation went into this day on their parts as well as all of our teachers. Additionally, we were very pleased with the excellent turnout at **parent conferences** last month. It was great to see all our parents. Teachers work many long hours in preparation for these evenings and look forward to meeting with our parents.

Other positive happenings at Goodwin include:

- Heritage Potluck Supper was a huge success. This was the largest turnout of family members in the history of the event. Thank you to **Nancy Titchen** for coordinating it on the school side with the planning of activities during the evening. Thank you as well to our PTO volunteer, who worked with Mrs. Titchen for such a successful time for our children. Moreover, I would like to once again thank Cheryl Courteau and Dotty Kozelka for their dedication to our school community in helping out at this event as well.
- Our Tressle Tree is up in our gym and the children are dedicated to improving their physical fitness, strength and coordination. **Mr. Dean has once again outdone himself** with engaging activities that are fun and yet meet the demands of being physically fit. He shows the children that being physically active can be enjoyed and therefore part of their everyday life to stay healthy.
- Our 4th graders came back from their trip to the Pequot Museum full of new information and excitement about their learning. Thank you to Mrs. Hodge and Mrs. Smith for their time and effort in planning and organizing this for educational experience for all children. A great time was had by all and our students represented Goodwin well as respectful, well-mannered children who were interested and excited about the Pequot history.

Time spent with family is a time for your children to grow as well. If you have some time, try the following some family teamwork activities:

Whether your youngsters are doing a group project or playing Hacky Sack, a team effort is needed. Everyone's a winner with these games that will show them team work in action.

Lower the Yardstick. Together hold a yardstick horizontally so that everyone has one finger underneath. Then lower the yardstick to the ground - but if anyone's finger drops away, you have to start over. See how many tries it takes to get the yardstick to the floor. This is hard (I could never do it). Remember to laugh about it and not get frustrated. The goal is to have fun and laugh together.

Pass the Ball. Sit in a circle with your feet out toward the center. Pass a ball around the circle - using only your feet. How many times can the ball go around before it drops on the ground?

I would like to wish all of our families a safe and relaxing holiday season.

Susan

Upcoming Events For December

12/8 Grade 3 field trip to Mansfield Public Library

12/10 PTO Meeting 6:30-7:30

12/11 Board of Ed Meeting 7:30

12/24-1/2 Winter Vacation

REMINDERS:

- **Please be sure your child has the appropriate clothing to wear for the daily 30 minute recess: hat, mittens/gloves, warm coat, snow pants and boots are appropriate for Decembers blustery weather. We will have outdoor recess everyday as long as the temperature is above 15 degrees.**
- Please remember to call the school office if your child is to be absent.
- Please send a note to the office at gnooffice@mansfieldct.org or to your child's teacher if you are picking them up during or at the end of the day.

Children who have cold/flu symptoms need to be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication, before returning to school.