

Good News from Goodwin

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The cold months are upon us and I prefer to think of them as the coming of Winter Wonderland—warm fires, white trees, hot chocolate and a good book. The days in the high 40s and 50s are a special gift each month that allow us remember the warmth of fall and spring. They used to be called January Thaw and I look forward to those as well. Everything is about the lens you look through to see the positive that surrounds us. Here are a few more positive events and happenings to share:

- ☼ Please join us for the BOE meeting on December 8th at 7:30 at Goodwin. Mrs. Tami Motyl will be honored as the Mansfield Paraprofessional of the Year for 2017 at this meeting. Come support Mrs. Motyl who served as a pre-school and Kindergarten Paraprofessional for the last 18 years at Goodwin. We are so fortunate to have her. The meeting usually last about 20 minutes before it breaks to allow for a small celebration and then everyone leaves who needs to.
- ☼ Mrs. Pagoni and Mrs. Geary were presenters at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference in Minneapolis, MN with Dr. Doug Kaufman from UCONN. Their workshop was titled *Teachers' Literacy Lives as Models for Student Writing*. This is their 8th year as national presenters.
- ☼ Once again, our PTO has outdone themselves with the well attended Harvest Fair. Our own custodians, Jodi and Lisa dressed up and handed out goodies as well! Thank you to all who made this happen for our children.
- ☼ The Heritage Potluck was so well attended and the foods from around the world were delicious. There were over 200 people who participated and the conversations were warm and welcoming to all. This was a great undertaking by our own Enrichment teacher, Nancy Titchen and the PTO. Each year more and more attend and this was a record breaking year in attendance. This is truly one of my favorite events at Goodwin.
- ☼ The following day, we had our annual Thanksgiving Feast with all students and staff being served a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal. The food was delicious and made lovingly by our food service staff, Linda Spencer and Judy Campbell. Parents came and served over 250 students and staff inside of one hour. Thank you to staff and parents who worked hard to decorate and organize the set up of our dinner tables. Jodi and Lisa deserve a special recognition as well with having our two events back to back and having it all go off without a hitch.
- ☼ We want to wish Mrs. Jankowski well with the birth of her new child and I know that we will miss her. We are very lucky to have Ms. LaChut as a part of our community so quickly. She even came with family to our Heritage PotLuck just days after taking over for Mrs. Jankowski. I hope all of her families came by to introduce themselves during conferences.
- ☼ Principal's Coffee and Conversation is on Friday, December 9th. It is a time when you are welcome to stop in and chat about anything that is on your mind. Please do join me for some light refreshments.

May you have a wonderful time with your family over this winter break and enjoy the time, laughter, love and space to enjoy one another that is so welcome and needed at this time of year.

Upcoming Events For December

12/8—Board of Ed. Meeting—Goodwin 7:30

12/9—Coffee and Conversation with Susan Muirhead 8:45-9:30

12/9—PJ Day—\$1.00 donation for your child to wear their PJ's to school goes to Connecticut Children's Medical Center

12/22—Goodwin's Town Meeting—2:30

12/23—Early Dismissal for Students 12:45

12/26– 1/2—Winter Break—No School

FLU SYMPTOMS—early onset of exhaustion and fever of 100, headache, coughing and body aches.

Symptoms can last 4-7 days. Fatigue can last longer. Stomach virus—Vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramps are symptoms of a stomach virus.

Students with Flu symptoms or stomach virus are contagious and need to be symptom free for 24 hours with-