

January 16, 2017

Hello Everyone,

Last week was certainly a roller coaster week as far as the weather was concerned. It went from warm and spring-like to cold with an ice storm. Luckily the main roads and our parking lot stayed clear of ice and we were able to have school. I know some of you had more difficult commutes and had to remain home and that was understandable. After all the students were dismissed on Friday, our power went out and on that night the ice caused some damage to our playground. We are working to clear the debris, but we sadly lost another tree. My concern is that with all the rain (and more on the way) we will have more of our larger trees uprooted. Positive thoughts please that they all stay strong and remain standing. Looking on the bright side, there should be volunteer opportunities due to the storm for those of you looking to fulfill your service hours. There will be even more opportunities as the weather improves and we begin to implement provisions of the grants we have received this month.

Thanks so much to Gwen LeBeau and Robin Cardwell-Mullins for transporting our seventh and eighth graders to Unity Point School for the PSAT test last Thursday. We also finished ITBS testing for the rest of the students in the class except those who were absent.

Last week we also worked on some creative ways of increasing focus as well as calming students. You will be seeing some examples on the upstairs hallway wall. We have started a new read aloud book called *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. This is not a historical fiction like our past books, but it is an excellent book and the students will enjoy it.

Some of the students in the class decided to come in on Thursday at lunch recess after being told they couldn't. There was no one to supervise these students and that is why I told them they could not come in until my staff meeting was over. I was particularly sad that these students were seventh and eighth graders and did not exhibit the leadership skills and maturity I would expect from these older students. I was also concerned that this set a very bad example for the younger students. I will be asking these students to write a one page essay on their responsibilities to themselves and others in regards to why it is important that they be where they are supposed to be and not where no one can find them without searching.

The school will be enforcing the handbook policy that if a student is not checked out with a staff member, (Find the person with the clipboard.) then that family will be billed for childcare until 5:15. We have had several incidents of students leaving and not being checked out. This is very stressful for the playground staff as they must leave the other students and search for these students. I am sad to say that despite frequent reminders that these students are also seventh and eighth grade students.

If you are in a rush, consider leaving your children at school until you can pick them up and take time to check them out. Afterschool care is only \$5.00 per hour which is a huge bargain. The more students who stay, the more fun it is and the more opportunity we have for providing special activities. This is a great time for parents to run errands without their teens and tweens.

In social studies, we are studying the early history of the republic. We are talking about the first few presidents and how they formed their cabinet and made decisions setting precedents that is still followed today.

In science, we are going to be skipping around in our text. We are starting work on a unit on the human body. We will head back to plants in the spring when we can do some more hands-on work with our garden spots in the area.

At 6:00 on January 26 there will be an hour-long Love and Logic meeting in my classroom. This will be a question and answer session as well as an information gathering meeting to plan further monthly Love and Logic meetings. This is open to all New School parents with children of all ages. There will be no childcare for this meeting, but if we have enough interest we may be able to do that in the future.

**Please remember to check your mailboxes. Another reminder is that all eighth grade parents or parents of students advancing to the high school next year need to contact Robin Cardwell-Mullins as soon as possible.**

Best wishes,

Carla

Wish List:

Gift Cards: Barnes & Noble, Petco, Walmart, and Amazon for the pets and library.