



January 20, 2012

Happy Friday Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy!

We certainly had an interesting week with an interesting finish!

Our **Joyful Learning** students enjoyed their pajama days, blue rectangles, and study of children's literature. The classroom teachers will be contacting you via email if your child missed their pajama day today due to the delay.

The **Southbrook** students enjoyed an all-school activity this afternoon. Each child got a badge with their own thumbprint and acted as detectives. They read clues to try to figure out what was in a mystery paper bag. What a great way to continue their study of mysteries.

Today is a perfect opportunity to review our policies regarding **snow cancellations and delays**. The determination of whether or not to have a delay or cancellation is made with the safety of the children and staff as the first priority. I look at what Bridgewater and surrounding towns have decided and also speak to the Bridgewater Police and Fire departments to determine the condition of the roads. If it is determined to have a delay or cancellation, the first step is to launch the automatic phone call from School Reach. We tested this system in November and made changes based on the input we received from families. Your home and cell phone numbers are in the School Reach database, and each phone should receive a call. If the phone is not answered, a voice mail message is left. Please be sure to check your messages if you see a missed call from the school. The announcement will also be broadcast on Channel 5 (WCVB) and Fox 25 news. I will also put announcements on our Facebook page and Twitter feed.

The Joyful Learning staff and I will be re-evaluating the policy as far as cancelling morning preschool when there is a delay at Southbrook. The current policy has been in place for years for a couple of reasons. The first is that if the elementary students are being dropped off between 8:30 and 9:00, the traffic in the parking lot, which will have been "shrunk" because of the snow, is already heavy. Therefore, adding to that traffic by dropping off pre-school children at the same time becomes a safety concern. In terms of delaying the morning pre-school, the concern with that is since it is already such a short period of time, would families want to come out in the snow to drop their children off, only to have to return so shortly after? Certainly, next year, with the longer 3 and 5 day programs, there will be delays in place as opposed to cancelling. As I said, however, the preschool staff and I will be re-evaluating the current policy

and making a decision as to whether or not to change it for this year. I will be sure to notify all families of this decision as soon as it is made.

Speaking of snow, it's also important to send out a reminder of "**snow gear**" and **clothes**. Even when there is snow on the ground, we still do our best to get the students outdoors to play and get some fresh air. If the temperatures are too cold or the ground is icy, the children stay inside for their safety. Please be sure they come to school with snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, etc. when there is snow on the ground. It is also a good idea to send in a complete new outfit in the event that their clothes get wet or muddy while playing outside. This is also a good thing to do in the event that a child has an accident or spill during the day. We do have extra clothes at the school, but we may not always have the right size or style (i.e. shorts instead of pants, etc.)

What a wonderful turnout at our **Open House**! Thank you to all of you who came out to find about your next step at Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy. It was also a great chance to see all of the exciting things that our happening in our classrooms. Thank you to all of the teachers who posted the student projects and special assignments for all to see! If you have not done so already, please be sure to register online for the 2012-2013 school year. Spaces are filling up quickly!

Our celebration for **Halfway Day** will be on **Monday, January 23rd**. It will be a dress down day, but a special one! Students are invited to dress representing halves. For example, they can wear half plaid and half polka-dots, or one of each pair of shoes. Think about sending in their lunch or snack with "half" in mind. It's always exciting to see the fun and creative ideas! And a shock to realize we are already halfway through the year!

Tuesday, January 24th is our Read-a-Thon at the Bridgewater Public Library from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. In addition to reading for an hour, there will be Bingo games, snacks, and free-reading. There is plenty of fun in store for our celebration of the annual curriculum theme!

Wednesday, January 25th will be an early release at Southbrook Academy. Students will be dismissed at 11:45 am, and traffic in the parking lot will be heavy at this time. Joyful Learning teachers will be dismissing their morning classes a few minutes early to allow families to exit the parking lot as soon as possible and avoid the traffic.

As always, thank you for your continued support! Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

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