



December 16, 2011

Happy Friday Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy!

It is hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner! The cold weather has set in, but, on the plus side, it makes the season a bit more festive. Our students have had a wonderful week enjoying all the excitement of the season.

The **Joyful Learning** students went on their annual bear hunts throughout the school. It was very impressive to see how thorough and intent they were!

The **Southbrook Academy** students enjoyed plenty of exciting learning experiences this week. Our third graders traveled to Plymouth where they explored the streets named for the famous colonists' they've been studying. They also saw their homes, and artifacts from the time period in Pilgrim Hall Museum. Thank you very much to all the parents who donated their time to chaperone. This afternoon, we had an all-school activity in association with our Fiction piece of our Curriculum Theme. I was very excited to read Jane Brett's Gingerbread Friends to the school. It was an adorable story about a young gingerbread boy who goes out in search of new friends, only to discover that he had plenty of friends right at home the whole time. Afterwards, the children worked together in mixed-age groups to create cinnamon ornaments. They will dry at the school over the weekend and the children will bring them home on Monday. Boy does it smell yummy in here!

On Monday, the **fourth, fifth, and sixth graders** will be visiting the other grades and reading their Fill Your Bucket story to the children. Afterward, they will perform their original commercials for the children, teaching them all about positive thinking and treating others' with respect. This is a wonderful piece of our anti-bullying program!

Speaking of commercials, ours looks amazing! I am so excited to share it with you! It will start airing on Monday, December 19th, on the Travel Channel, TNT, Lifetime, Oxygen, WE, ABC Family, Animal Planet, Discovery, Hallmark, OWN, and TLC. It will air throughout the day, so set your DVRs! Once it begins airing, I will be uploading it to our website and Facebook page as well. You will love what you see!

Our **Uniform Swap Shop** continues to run very well! It will be closed this coming Wednesday, 12/21. After the winter break, it will be open only on the first Wednesday of each month. You can contact Frances Rackley, Kristin Macedo, or Donna Boyce if you need items in the mean

time. This is a wonderful opportunity to trade in outgrown uniform pieces for new, better fitting ones. The children have grown so rapidly this year!

Speaking of uniforms, it is important with the changing temperatures to address the **uniform policy**. Students are required to wear an approved top with a Southbrook Academy logo on it. We have noticed students wearing other sweatshirts/sweaters lately. Please be sure uniform tops are warm enough for the cold temperatures, as they need to be visible throughout the day. (With the exception of when the children are wearing their coats outside) Uniform bottoms do not necessarily need to be purchased through Land's End, but should be a similar style.

We are also working hard to ensure the children's warmth this winter. We try to get the children outdoors as often as possible, unless the temperatures are too frigid or it is raining/muddy. Therefore, please be sure to send your child in with a winter coat, hat, gloves, etc. When they go out for phys. ed., snack recess, and/or regular recess, we make sure all children are wearing appropriate winter attire. As the temperatures drop, light sweatshirts/jackets are not sufficient. Ultimately, we are looking out for the children's health and safety.

We have so much excitement in store for next week!

On **Tuesday, December 20** children in the two and five day preschool classes, as well as our K-6 students, will be treated to potato latkes, thanks to Valerie Perry and the Parents' Association. They will be served to the children during their regular snack times.

On **Wednesday, December 21** we have our Joyful Learning Holiday Celebrations. Miss Carolyn and Miss Sue's class's celebration will start at 10:45. Miss Christine and Miss Danica's will be at 11:00, and Miss Jenn and Miss Laurie's will be at 11:15. These celebrations will take place in the regular classrooms. We will do our best to provide plenty of parking for everyone. However, spaces at the fire station will be available **as long as no one parks their car in front of the bays or otherwise blocks the firefighters' exit**. Please do not park on the street.

The five day preschool and K-6 students will also be treated to a special presentation by **Northbrook Academy** students, who will be performing their play "The Little Prince" on Wednesday at 1:20. It is always a treat to see many of our Southbrook students returning to their *alma mater*.

On **Thursday, December 22** volunteers from the Parents' Association will join people from Just Claying Around in making a special craft with the K-6 students. They will work on the craft from 9:00 to 10:00; if you are interested in volunteering to help out, you can sign up on our website at <http://www.southbrookacademy.org/parents/parentsassociation.html>.

The schedule for **Joyful Learning Holiday Parties** for Thursday is Miss Carolyn at 10:45, Miss Christine and Miss Danica at 11:00, Miss Carolyn and Miss Nancy at 2:00, and Miss Jenn and

Miss Laurie (5 day) at 3:15. Once again, these celebrations will take place in the classrooms. We will do our best to provide plenty of parking for everyone. However, spaces at the fire station will be available **as long as no one parks their car in front of the bays or otherwise blocks the firefighters' exit**. Please do not park on the street.

Mrs. Catalano wanted to remind everyone of a few things in regard to the **All School Holiday Sing-A-Long on Thursday, December 22nd**. First, because of space issues, this an "in-school" performance and the audience will consist ONLY of the students and the teachers. (Don't worry though, we are a great audience!). Also, since it is a "non-uniform day", all students are asked to wear their "festive" attire to add to our holiday theme. And just a reminder to the 5th and 6th grade students, ALL play props and costumes MUST be in by Monday (at the latest). Thank you!

Also on **Thursday, December 22, after-care** will be ending at 4:15. School will re-open on **Tuesday, January 3, 2012!**

**The Parents' Association** has many exciting events in store for the next few months. Thank you very much for the wonderful Holiday Shoppe and yummy treats! Also, many thanks for organizing and contributing to the drive to help area foster children. It is heartwarming to see how generous and caring members of our community are!

Here's a timeline of what's coming up:

Thursday, 12/29: Bowling at Viking Recreation Center, East Bridgewater, 12-2pm

Wednesday, 1/25: Roller Skating at the Carousel, Whitman, 2-4 (Southbrook Half Day)

Sunday, 2/12: Ski/Board trip to Mount Sunapee

As always, thank you so much for your continued support! We are having a wonderful school year so far!

Have a great weekend!

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