



December 2, 2011

Good Afternoon Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy Families

I can't believe December is here! We have certainly enjoyed the warmer temperatures this week. Although I must say it is so nice to see the children getting excited for the holiday season. Our activities this week are certainly getting them in the spirit!

Our **Joyful Learning** students learned about and designed their own snowmen, started practicing holiday songs, and graphed their favorite holiday foods. Staying with the farm theme, our five day students also learned about pigs and made their own "pig pens" with "mud" on construction paper. Very creative!

For the first time, we are offering a "Shop 'til you Drop Night" for Joyful Learning families. It will be held on **Friday, December 16th**. From 5:30-8:30, EEC certified teachers (Miss Debbie included!) will be here to play with our Joyful Learning students. Students can wear their pajamas too! We will serve pizza, provide a craft, show a movie, and have plenty of fun! This gives parents a chance to get some of that last minute shopping done! If you are interested in sending your child to this fun-filled night, please sign up with Miss Debbie at the front desk.

The **Southbrook** students got right back into the swing of things on Monday morning! The students in 3B made a "Poet Tree" by displaying their original poems on a "tree" made from bark shadings. Check it out in the hallway outside their classroom! The fourth graders have begun reading one of my personal favorites, Freckle Juice, and they also got to create some of their own descriptive writing. It was very interesting to listen to them describe what their bedrooms would be like if they never cleaned them!!!!

Our spectacular anti-bullying program continues as the fourth through sixth grade students "fill their buckets" with kind, caring thoughts. This will be a continuous activity which will soon involve the younger grades.

This afternoon our K-6 students were treated to a **Polar Express** activity. They listened to Liam Neeson narrate the famous story, and afterward they assembled the ingredients for a yummy holiday treat! This surely got them in the holiday spirit, and especially excited for **Tuesday night's Polar Express event at Edaville Railroad!**

On Tuesday, November 29th, families of our third through sixth grade students braved the rain and joined us for an informational meeting. We are very excited to announce the **possibility of a seventh grade option for the fall of 2012!** At our meeting, we had a very productive discussion about what characteristics are necessary in a seventh grade program and how we could bring them here to Southbrook Academy. We will be forming a committee of parents, teachers, and myself to investigate these options and we will know prior to registration season whether or not we will be able to officially offer the seventh grade. If you are interesting in serving on the committee, please email me with your available days/times and we can work out a meeting schedule.

Thank you to all of the families who returned the **Joyful Learning surveys** in regard to program options for the fall. We have received roughly 30% of the surveys back. If you have not yet returned the survey, it is not too late! There is a bin in front of Miss Debbie's desk for you to drop it off. We value your input in program planning and want to be sure we hear from as many families as possible. Thank you very much for your time!

I am also very excited to announce that I met yesterday with a representative from Comcast as well as a television producer. We will be producing **our own commercial** which will air on television and online during the months of December and January! It will air on popular channels such as TLC, USA, and The Hallmark Channel. This is an exciting opportunity for us to show the community what a wonderful school we have! All families will be receiving a detailed letter and permission forms to sign. If you are not comfortable with your child being in our commercial, we completely understand, and have specific ways to prevent them from being on film. Filming will take place on **Friday, December 9th**. The premise of the commercial is to show what we do here on a daily basis, so we will not be "staging" anything and we will have as little disruption to the day as possible. We are very excited for this new venture!

This coming **Wednesday, December 7th**, will be an **early release** for our Southbrook Academy students. They will be dismissed at 11:45 am which means that traffic will be heavy in the parking lot at that time. Joyful Learning teachers will dismiss their classes a few minutes early in order to help you beat the traffic. If your Southbrook student is going to after care that day please be sure to pack a lunch!

The annual **Holiday Shoppe** has been scheduled for **Monday, December 12th and Tuesday, December 13th**. Three and Five day preschool students, as well as our K-6 students, will have the opportunity to shop for small gifts with their class and have them wrapped by very generous parent volunteers. Thank you so much to the Parents' Association for hosting this wonderful event! They will also be providing holiday treats to the students during snack time on the day they go to the shoppe. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact the PA at JLSAPA@southbrookacademy.org. There will soon be a place on our website to sign up to volunteer as well!

Our **Open House** for the 2012-2013 school year has been scheduled for **Thursday, January 19th** from 6:00-7:30 pm. Currently enrolled families will get "first dibs" on next year's classes by

having the opportunity to register prior to the Open House. Our Joyful Learning families will have their child's progress report and a conference with their child's teacher prior to registration so you will know what the best option for your child is. New families interested in joining our community will be able to register at the Open House and afterward. All registrations will be completed online and computers will be available in the building at conferences and the Open House.

As always, thank you for your continued support! Together, we are creating a fantastic community for our children to grow and develop academically, socially, and emotionally!

Sincerely,

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