

Bear Cub News

January 2009

"Where ALL students learn!"



Amy Rogers, South/West Principal
South 426-2229 West 426-3135

Beth Welke, Deerfield Principal
Deerfield 426-5123

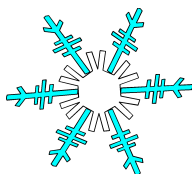
JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Jan. 2 - Teacher In-service
NO SCHOOL for students
- Jan. 5 - Students return to school
Begin third quarter
- Jan. 6 - Report cards sent home
- Jan. 9 - Kindergarten 2nd semester milk money due
- Jan. 12 - School Board Mtg @ 7 PM
- Jan. 19 - PFE Mtg @ Deerfield 7 PM
- Jan. 29 - ALL 2nd grade students to symphony



Progress Report Should Arrive

Progress reports for the semester will be sent home in a brown business envelope on Tuesday, **January 6th**. Parents should look for this and return the **enclosed letter and envelope** to verify receipt.



Kindergarten Milk Money

The cost of kindergarten milk is \$36.00 for the second semester and is due by Friday, January 9th. This is the milk children drink during the afternoon break.

Recess Policy

The recess policy is as follows: If a child is well enough to be in school, he/she is well enough to go outside for recess. Only a few exceptions to this policy are considered. Children are not required to go outside when it is extremely cold or stormy. A doctor's note is required for students to stay inside.



*** IMPORTANT REQUEST!!!**

Please help teachers, staff and students identify students' outdoor wear by printing your child's name on any winter item such as boots, coats and hats they wear to school!

Thank you for your help!

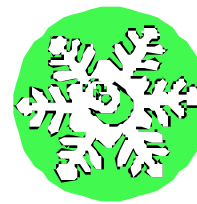


Dismissal at West School

We are asking parents of West School students to please follow the student pick-up procedures as outlined in the Student Handbook that was distributed earlier this year. The West School student pick-up zone is northeast of the main entrance. Parents should remain in the parent pick-up line and allow teachers to assist students in to cars when parents or guardians have reached the student loading zone.

These procedures are in place for the safety of our children.

Thank you for your help with this matter.



Change Of Information

In the child's progress report envelope will be a family information sheet. Please review this information, make any corrections, sign and return.

A reminder to parents joining their child for lunch: Please be sure to call the office by 9:00 am to order a school lunch and/or to make arrangements for additional seating during lunch time. Adult lunches are \$2.55.

A tremendous **THANK YOU** to parents, students and staff who donated items in December for the food pantry and area shelters. Because of your generosity, many families will enjoy the spirit of the holiday season. Our donation tables were overflowing with non-perishable food items, games, books and winterwear. What a blessing to live in such a wonderful, supportive community!



Unpredictable Weather—Student Release

Please use the following resources for information regarding school closings determined by 6:00 a.m.

Television:

Channel 3 (KMTV)
Channel 6 (WOWT)
Channel 7 (KETV)
Channel 42 (FOX)

Radio:

KFAB (1110 AM)
KBLR (97.3 FM)
KHUB (1340 AM)

Web

www.blairschools.org

Connect -ED

The new phone system will send a voice message to all students and staff.

Teachers will follow the directions specified on the emergency closing form found on the information sheet. **Please notify the school now if you need to change these instructions.**

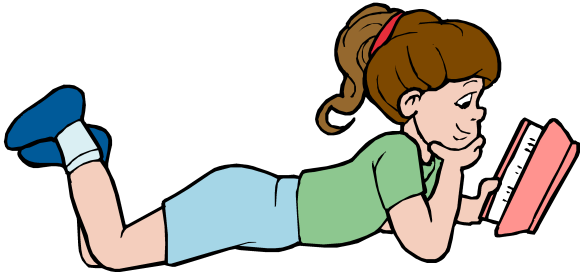
Because this is a busy time for office staff, we would really appreciate it if you could listen for school announcements on local stations and **refrain from calling the building** during this time if at all possible.

If weather is inclement at dismissal time, students will remain in the building until leaving is advisable or until the parent or the child-care provider arrives.



Deerfield Reading Buddies

by Angie Boyd, 2nd Grade Teacher, Deerfield Primary School



Second graders love to read with their kindergarten book buddies. They can't wait to practice reading fluently to their little buddies. Repeated readings are essential in developing children's ability to recognize and read print accurately, quickly and with expression. Second graders read from their own book box or from their Book of Poetry. The kindergarteners love to sit next to their book buddy, practicing listening skills and forming a connection to both their partner and the story. The children take turns reading in each classroom. Book buddies create a special time to develop social skills and the love of reading!



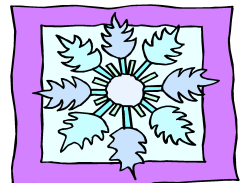
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Donations

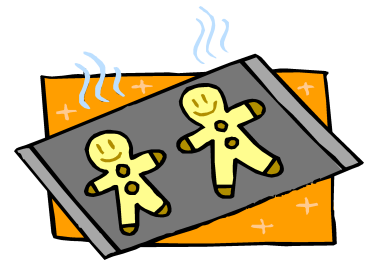
The primary schools are often in need of pants with elastic waistbands and packages of new underwear when students spill or have accidents. Donations of outgrown pants and new underwear can be dropped off at the school's office.

THANK YOU!

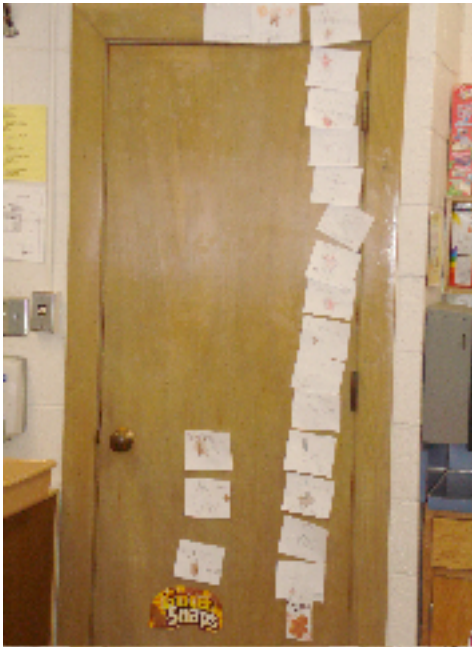


Run! Run! As fast as you can.....

by Ms. Callie Arnold
Kindergarten Teacher, West School



During the first week of December, kindergarten students in Ms. Arnold's class at West School participated in many activities about the Gingerbread Man. They started off the week by reading the traditional story of the Gingerbread Man who ran away. That afternoon, their Gingerbread man ran away, too! Students made "LOST" posters to try to find him.



When Gingerbread Man didn't return, students wrote him letters convincing him to come back, and the Gingerbread Man wrote back! He wrote about his likes and dislikes as well as when he thought he might return!

Students taste tested gingerbread and ginger snap cookies and decided which one they liked best. They created a class graph reflecting their choices...and gingerbread man cookies won!

Students also sorted gingerbread word cards in the -at and -an word families, wrote descriptive sentences about their Gingerbread Man, and compared the story of the Gingerbread Man to the story of the Gingerbread Girl.

The week ended by going on a scavenger hunt to find the Gingerbread Man. He left us clues to follow, and ended up hiding in the locker right by our classroom... what a sneaky guy!

Everyone enjoyed eating a cookie made by the Gingerbread Man.

Boy! They were tasty!



Reading At Home

By Mrs. Drew, Reading Teacher at South Primary School



Reading at home is vital to your child's success in school. Reading ten to twenty minutes each day at home will result in increased academic success. This includes three types of reading: reading to, reading with, and listening to children.

Listening to children may seem “most important”, because when children are learning to read, teachers often request that parents listen to their child practice reading leveled books. Parents frequently ask, “What are leveled books and where I can buy them?” Leveled books are books sequenced in difficulty. These books allow children be successful when reading independently, as the child knows 95% or more of the words. These books sometimes may be purchased in set, but typically it is best to use the ones sent home from school, especially when the student is just beginning to read. Different publishers “level” in different ways. A “Beginning Reader” or “Stage One” of one publisher may actually be a level twelve in the leveling system used at school! Furthermore, at early levels (one through twelve) students move from one level to another quickly. Once a child reaches level sixteen, there are several books available to purchase. For more information about this, contact the reading teacher at your school or the classroom teacher.

Reading with your child is exactly that. The parent reads part of the words and the child reads some. Or the reading may be both reading at the same time. Be cautious about too many interruptions (usually waiting for a child to figure out a new word) interfering with comprehension.

Reading to your child is the focus of this article. With the emphasis on listening to your child, sometimes parents reading TO the child is omitted. **EVEN THOUGH YOUR CHILD IS READING, HE/SHE STILL NEEDS YOU TO READ TO HIM/HER AT HOME.** Your child will do better in school, and you'll enjoy the time spent together. Focus on having it be a pleasurable family time instead of an extension of school.

Here are helpful tips for reading to kindergarten through third grade:

1. Keep reading to your child even when he becomes a proficient reader. Read books that are too difficult or long for him to read alone.
2. Try reading books with chapters and talk about what is happening in the story. Encourage your child to make predictions about what will happen next, and connect characters or events to those in other books and stories. Parents often ask, “What should I do when my child always checks out a book from the library that is too difficult for him/her to read?” This is the perfect book for you to read TO your child!
3. Talk about the meaning of new words and ideas introduced in books. Help your child think of examples of new concepts.
4. Talk with your child about beginning, middle, and end of the story to organize thinking and discussion. Discuss new information learned in nonfiction books.
5. Ask your child to tell why a character might have taken a specific action. Ask for information from the story to support her answer.
6. Relax and have fun with your child. The most important thing you can do to help your child become a successful reader is communicate that reading is valuable and enjoyable.

1st Graders "Wish Lists" for Santa!

by Mrs. Lois Warrick, 1st Grade Teacher, West School

After learning the five parts of a friendly letter during Writer's Workshop, Mrs. Warrick's first graders at West School were excited to apply these skills as they wrote letters to Santa. Here are a few of their letters:



December 9, 2008

Dear Santa,
I did clean up with my sister. I will leave you cookies. I want a robot. I want to give my mom a ring.

Love,
Jakob

December 9, 2008

Dear Santa,
I was nice to people. I like you Santa. I want you to bring me HotWheels. Bring my parents a watch. What are your elves names? How do you fix the toys? How many elves do you have? Santa, where do you get the wrapping paper? I am six years old. I love school!

Love,
Frank



Dear Santa,
I have been good because I help my mom get stuff. How can your reindeer fly? I want a Diamond Castle and something else. I hope you have a nice trip.
Love,
Jessamine

December 9, 2008

Dear Santa,
I like kickball. I also like baseball. How many presents do you deliver every year? I would like to have nine, big, tall bins. I would like to have you bring me a chew toy for my dog.
From,
Tommy



December 9, 2008

Dear Santa,
I helped a lot of people this year. What are your elves names? I really want this for Christmas - a Wii. Can you give my teacher a present? I am six.

Love,
Jaime

December 9, 2008

Dear Santa,
I like cookies, too. What are your reindeers names? I want a guitar, and my sister Jordan would like a piano.



Love,
Emma
P.S. Have a jolly night!





January 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	No School.....Winter Break			1 No School.....	2 Teacher Inservice	3
				New Years Day		
4	5 Begin 3rd Quarter	6 Report cards home	7	8	9	10
11	12 7:00 pm School Board	13	14 	15	16 6:30 Winter Writer's Celebration!	17
18	19 7:00 pm PFE @ DF	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Preschool Screenings	29 2nd Grade to Symphony	30	

Don't forget to READ every night!!!



K-3 Schools JANUARY 2009



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

			1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL
5 Pizza Green Beans Pears Milk No Salad or Alt. Meals	6 Cheeseburger on a Bun Corn Mixed Fruit Milk No Salad or Alt. Meals	7 (5) Chicken Nuggets Tri-Tator Peaches Bread Milk No Salad or Alt. Meals	8 Hot Dog on a Bun Chips Baked Beans Apple Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	9 Meat Nachos W/Cheese Sauce Lettuce Salad Bread Milk Salad or Alt. Meals
12 (6) Mini Corn Dogs Lettuce Salad Tidbit Pineapple Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	13 (15) Popcorn Chicken Chips Green Beans Pears Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	14 (4) Beef Teriyaki Blasters Oven Fries Sliced Oranges Bread Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	15 Turkey Potatoes & Gravy Strawberries Bread Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	16 (1) Ham & Cheese Sandwich Ch. Noodle Soup Lettuce Salad Apple Milk Salad or Alt. Meals
19 Cheeseburger on a Bun Corn Mixed Fruit Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	20 Spaghetti Bar W/Meat Sauce Lettuce Salad Apple Bread Milk No Salad or Alt. Meals	21 (6) Mini Corn Dogs Tri-Tator Tidbit Pineapple Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	22 Chicken Fried Steak Potatoes & Gravy Peaches Bread Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	23 Breaded Chicken Patty on a Bun Chips Green Beans Pears Milk Salad or Alt. Meals
26 Cheeseburger on a Bun Chips Baked Beans Applesauce Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	27 Sandwich Bar Lettuce Salad Apple Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	28 (4) Beef Teriyaki Blasters Peas Pears Bread Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	29 (6) Mini Corn Dogs Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk Salad or Alt. Meals	30 (5) Chicken Nuggets Tri-Tator Peaches Bread Milk Salad or Alt. Meals

Happy New Year