

# Christa McAuliffe Messenger

January 2012

## CLASSES RESUME MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH

### "Happy New Year"

Our McAuliffe families and Student Council worked hard to make the holidays special for the needy. We would like to thank all of the McAuliffe families that helped make so many have a wonderful holiday. Our student body supported our holiday project by bringing in hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to decorate our tree. Their food donations were greatly appreciated. Because it is both a gift to give and receive, I know that the holidays were brighter for all who participated. On Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> our PTO sponsored Santa's Secret Workshop. Our students had an opportunity to visit with Santa and have their picture taken. They also did shopping for their loved ones with the help of a personal shopper to guide them. There were also elves available for face painting and balloon art. Our raffle raised money for *Operation Send Santa to the Troops*, an organization that sends gifts to our soldiers overseas. Through the McAuliffe community's generosity, we were able to buy almost \$600 in gifts. We were also able to help the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. "Thank you" goes to Mrs. Kwiat, Mrs. Shanle, Mrs. Quarta and all who volunteered to make our Santa's Secret Workshop such a success.

### Nurse's Note

Dry, chapped skin and lips are common problems resulting from the dry winter air. Small cracks in the skin and lips expose the underlying cells to germs in the environment. To help prevent dry skin, drink plenty of water, use moisturizers to retain and replace the skin's natural moisture, and take short, warm, showers and baths. Hot water removes the skin's natural oils more than warm or cool water. Keeping our skin healthy, helps to keep us healthy! Keep warm, enjoy some outdoor winter activities and as always, please keep students home when sick, and until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. As always, please feel free to call Mrs. Lois Murphy at 429-4565 with any questions or concerns.

### A New Year's Resolution

When students come to school prepared with all of their necessary items (books, lunches, snacks, assignments, notebooks, etc.), the day runs smoother and with fewer interruptions for all of our students. We've noticed an increase in the frequency of parents needing to drop off items throughout the day. Being prepared is a great skill to take through life. Let's help our students to develop this skill.

### Holiday Reading

During the holiday break the McAuliffe staff encourages all of our families to set aside time for reading each day. The learning process of reading is greatly enhanced when a child reads daily at his/her reading level. All children enjoy having someone read orally to them. It is generally accepted that children can listen to and understand reading material 2 to 3 years above their own reading level. Reading orally is a great way to spark a conversation and help your child's reading comprehension. We also encourage children to read aloud to their families. Children are so proud to read to someone else because they are able to demonstrate that their hard work and effort is paying off. A trip to our beautiful public library would be a great way to spend a few hours of our winter break.

### Math Facts

We encourage you to work with your student on their math facts at home. Check with your child's teacher for any helpful activities.

### After School Activities

McAuliffe School has many activities that take place after school involving many students. If your student will be staying after school for an activity, please mark the dates and pick up times on your calendar. It is also helpful to remind your student of the activity they are participating in and send a note to the teacher. It is important for you to be prompt in picking up your child at the designated pick up time.

### Student Absences/Tardies

If your child will be absent or late for any reason (illness, vacation, doctor appointment, etc.) you must call to inform the office before 7:55 am. A parent must confirm every absence or tardy. **If your child arrives after 7:55, you must come into the office to sign your child in.** Also, please make sure that your phone numbers are accurate. You can notify the office with any changes regarding phone numbers. We have experienced difficulty reaching parents because numbers have been disconnected or voicemail boxes are full.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**