



Great Village Elementary School

December News



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"WINTERY" WELCOME

The New Year is sure to provide a variety of weather conditions. Students are reminded to dress appropriately to be outside during the breaks throughout the school day. Also, it is helpful to have the student's initials marked on the tag of his/her snow pants.

Unless there is a scheduled early closure of schools, contact is made with a parent/guardian before students are dismissed when school is cancelled unexpectedly for weather conditions. On these occasions, if you try to phone the school you may get the answering machine as the line is busy with outgoing calls. **Please keep the school informed of any changes in contact information for your child.**

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

This month, each classroom received five new Chromebooks, just in time for students to participate in the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science. Students begin with the basics of computer programming and move through levels at their own pace to complete a variety of programming activities. By sharing tablets between classrooms, every student in a class is able to have his/her own tablet. It is impressive to observe students at all grade levels problem solve as they move complete the activities. To give coding a try, visit the code.org website.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to families and community members for supporting activities all year long, and especially during the month of December. Your commitment makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.

This year, students made gingerbread houses in Peace Groups (each Group has students from each of the classrooms). Having our older and more experienced students available to help the younger

students made constructing and decorating gingerbread houses go very smoothly. It takes **many** volunteers to make this event the success it is each year, both behind the scenes (e.g. baking gingerbread pieces, making icing, purchasing candy decorations) and on construction day. A special thank you is extended to Mandi MacRae for her leadership for this activity.

As our Classroom Café coordinator, Mandi also organized the Christmas dinner for students and staff. The meal was delicious and it is always enjoyable when we get to share a meal together in the gymnasium. We appreciate the many volunteers who help to prepare and serve this meal, and then stay afterwards to clean up.

Each year, students are fortunate to perform to a full house at our Christmas Concert. Thanks to all staff for their help in "polishing" the performance, with a special thank-you to our music teacher Mr. Black. This year, we had a new electric keyboard that was played by both Mr. Black and students during the concert. We are appreciative of the Home & School for supporting this purchase. On the night of the concert, in addition to "Gifts From the Heart", we also collected a full trunk load of food for the Colchester Food Bank.

READING & WRITING

The Home Reading/Writing program will start up again with students taking home books on Jan. 17. Children learn to read by reading, and by being read to. Plans are being made to have author Sherre Fitch come to the school in the spring to share some of her books, and to offer a writer's workshop in each classroom.

PRIMARY REGISTRATION

Students eligible to begin school in September 2018 (5 years old on or before Dec. 31, 2018) will be invited to register for school on February 7, 2018. Parents will be contacted in advance to make an appointment.

