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**Winfield Elementary School**

**Mammoth News**

**December 2016**

**Assistant Principal’s Message**

**Warm Greetings Winfield Families!**

**As the days grow colder in Baltimore, we want to make sure all students are warm and cozy as they travel back and forth to school. Too many of our students are coming to school unprepared for the cold weather. Please make sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves and or mittens. During the winter months, students still go outside for recess unless there is inclement weather and below freezing temperatures that cause us to stay inside. We also still conduct safety evacuation drills and those drills can have the school body outside for an extended period of time. We want to be supportive in this area, so if your family is in need of warm outer wear, please contact the school office and we can get you information for support. Additionally, many of our children leave warm coats and outer wear in the school’s lost and found. Feel free to stop into the front office and we can direct you to where you can look for lost items.**

**Please remember families those Winfield school hours are from 9:05 am to 3:40 pm. Students are not permitted in the building until 9:05 when staff is on duty. If you bring or send your child to school earlier than that, please be prepared to stay with them or keep them warm in the car with you. As always, thank you for your continued support of our students and our school. Have a safe and warm holiday with family and friends!**

**Parent Coordinator’s Message**

**This month Winfield Elementary School Parent Lending Library is announcing the availability of an expanded variety of interactive fun and exciting academic games that can help improve and broaden your child’s reading, math and writing skills during the Winter Break. Parents are invited to visit the Parent Leading Library located in the front lobby and check out games of their choice, on a first come first basis, from December 12 thru 22. All games must be returned to Winfield when school reopens on January 3, 2017. For additional information, please contact Mr. Collins, Parent Service Coordinator at** **ccollins3@bcps.org** **or 410-887-0766.**

**Snapshot of December Activities at Winfield**

**Dec 9, 3hr Early Closing, PD Day**

**Dec 13. 6:30, PTA Meeting**

**Dec 16, 5:30PM, PTA Holiday Movie Night**

**Dec 20, 6:00PM Winter Concert (at Windsor Mill Middle School)**

**Dec 24-Jan 2, Christmas Holiday/Winter Break**

**Grade Level General Information**

**Pre-K**

**In December our theme is, “Let’s Investigate!” We will understand how to ask questions and look for details in stories. We will continue to talk about numbers 1-20 and their quantity by comparing and naming their order. Continue to read each day with your child for 20 minutes and log it on the ‘Book-It’ reading log. Check out our ‘Parent Lending Library’ for learning games to play at home. See Mr. Collins for more information.**

**Kindergarten**

**Kindergarten will be focusing on completing patterns and then learning more about counting, adding numbers, and measuring everyday items in Math.  In ELA, we will be focusing on identifying the main idea and key details in stories and also asking and answering questions.  Please remember to bring in Kleenex and hand sanitizer for your child's classroom because it is flu season!  Thank you!!**

**2nd Grade**

**In December, the entire second grade will be working towards getting a movie and popcorn party for positive behavior in the cafeteria! All classes that earn will be able to participate. In math, we will be working on solving story problems using skip-counting strategies. We will also be working on adding and subtracting within 100. Students will also solve money problems with values up to fifty cents. In reading, we will be starting Unit 3 Live and Learn. In this unit, we will focus on different types of dangerous weather in non-fiction text. We are all looking forward to another wonderful month of learning!**

**3rd Grade**

**Third grade students continue to impress their teachers! In 3rd grade math classes, students are continuing to work on addition and subtraction. They are working hard to regroup (parents you may have called this “carrying the one” or “borrowing”, it is now called regrouping for both!) in order to accurately add or subtract. They have learned other ways to add and subtract also. We hope that they might teach you a new way they have learned! Their unit 2 tests are coming up soon so be on the look-out for reviews. We will be moving back to multiplication and division in January. In ELA, students are finishing up writing their own fable. They should have a beginning, middle, and end with more details. They also should be working on how to write dialogue into their writing using quotation marks. In Social Studies, we are working on learning our continents and oceans. We are focusing on parts of Asia specifically. Keep up the good work 3rd graders!**

**5th Grade**

**Our 5th graders are very excited about our first field trip coming up! It will be on December 21 and we will be going to the Science Center. Please remember to send in the permission slip and money. In reading the students have been showing their creative side by coming up with inventions that would benefit the lives of many students such as an electric pencil, a desk that is a printer, a wireless board, and many more. Now they are writing an essay trying to sell their great ideas to others. In Math the students have been working on strategies that they can use to understand, organize and solve word problems. Please continue to have them work on DreamBox at home.**

**In math we are finishing up our multiplication of decimals and whole numbers. Check out student grades on BCPSONE. We are moving towards a unit on decimal and whole number division. In Social Studies we are working on the Colonial Times Unit. Students created their own colony in the classroom and each student designed their own PowerPoint Project teaching us about the specialized job that they chose in our community. Look for other projects this quarter as we move further through the colonial times. Next up is our Science unit, Geology Rocks, students will learn about rocks, minerals, different land forms and how they are created!**

**Academic Resources Team Information**

**A workshop was held by the reading Specialist and Reading Interventionist, Ms. Burke and Ms. Reed, regarding how parents can support their child with reading and writing. There were about twenty amazing parents who showed up and had so much to contribute to the workshop! They had great questions and shared their experiences with regards to reading and writing which helped them to relate better to how their children learn to read and write. We all enjoyed the workshop, and as a result, there will be another one hopefully held in the spring sometime. Hope to see you all there!**

**Math Resources For Use At Home:**

**Textbooks For Homework and Study:**  **Students in all grades can access their textbooks by clicking on the P (Pearson Icon) in Digital Content in BCPS One.  Students in grades 3-5 can also view video tutorials and animated lessons, obtain additional practice, and play games that align with the skills they are studying when they click on the P (Pearson Icon).  Students in grades 3-5 can also take their textbooks home.**

**MAP Testing:** **Students in grades 1‐5 part­icipated in MAP testing and received a printout of their Fall 2016 MAP Math scores. The following resource can be used to help students to show progress when they take MAP again late January/early February 2017. You will find links to “MAP to Khan Academy” at** [**https://support.nwea.org/khanrit**](https://support.nwea.org/khanrit) **for Primary Grades and Grades 2‐5. Use the lessons to have students practice math skills based on their MAP score and then move on to practice skills at the next level. Your child can complete these activities without having to sign up for Khan Academy. However, if you would like to create an account on Khan Academy, you will find additional lessons and activities by grade level.**

**Special Education Information**

**As you are reading with your children this winter, remember to ask them questions about what they have read!  It is important that students are thinking about the text as they read to make meaning.  Simple who, what, when, where, why, and how questions will get them thinking and engaging with the text! Happy reading **

**Special Areas**

**This year there will be two winter concerts presented by Winfield’s Music Department.  December 13th will be a dress rehearsal at Winfield for the student body. All 4th and 5th grade students will be participating in Band, Chorus, or both.  The concert for families will take place December 20th at Windsor Mill Middle at 6 p.m.  Students participating are asked to arrive at Windsor Mill by 5 p.m. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with everyone!**