



Claypit Hill Monthly Newsletter December, 2014

Principal's Message

“Children have more needs of models than of critics.” Joseph Joubert

Dear Claypit Hill Families,

Almost one third of the school year has passed. We have accomplished so much and there is a great deal more to do. For me, there have been many highlights to date, but I must say that last week's School Meeting, Giving Thanks, has always made me extremely proud to be the principal of Claypit Hill School. It is a thrill at every school meeting, whenever children showcase their accomplishments, such as a two- minute original story, a one- minute thank you to our custodians, or a child's first time speaking at a microphone in front of 600 people. Last week our meeting ended with the entire fifth grade class singing, “Things I Am Thankful For,” and many people's eyes filled up, followed by the Turkey Tango, which made us smile and laugh. The student audience was extremely respectful and appreciative, as they watched their peers present. We had a wonderful day at school, before our Thanksgiving break to be shared with family and friends.

Over the next three weeks, we will have many special events, including our instrumental musical concerts. The music will showcase some of the holidays that many people celebrate, winter music and, most importantly, the talents of our wonderful third, fourth and fifth grade musicians! To date, 20 fifth graders have been part of a CREATE team, to highlight our core values at Claypit Hill. My goal is to include every fifth grader (who wants to be included) in a CREATE team this year, as students have the best ideas to teach the school about CREATE. It has been fun to work with them as they discuss, brainstorm, compliment each other's ideas and listen to a variety of viewpoints. They are even pretty good about cleaning up my office after they eat their lunch!

Please read further in this newsletter, as there are many important events this month. Our last day of school for 2014, will be Tuesday, December 23rd, which is a 3:00 day. Please enjoy a fun and peaceful time with the special people who touch your lives.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bearse

Kid's Quote of the Month

Fourth Grader talking to his mother...

“Hey mom, do you know if I’m in trouble? Ms. Bearse has been comin’ through my class a lot –she was there today, yesterday and the day before.”

Thank you to...

Thank You's From The PTO!

What a fun evening for all the Kindergarten and First Grade Families at Movie Night last month! The night was a great success **thanks to** Jamie Larsen and Alissa Duffy and our many parent volunteers who helped out serving popcorn.

Our next welcome event will be a winter crafts center sometime in January. More details and date to follow!

Thank you to Jen Varney for her time and effort in compiling the Lice Handout that went home in your children's backpack. We appreciate her enthusiasm and energy in creating this valuable document for all families to reference!

PTO Dollars at work!

Thanks to your donations to the PTO's Gift Your Child, the Cultural Enrichment Committee organized a visit from *Illstyle and Peace Productions*. The Claypit Hill School gym came alive with a variety of music and by the end of the show all the kids were dancing and even a few teachers were seen getting into the groove!

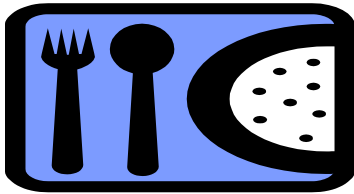
Many thanks to Lia Barris and Kristen Snyder, the Claypit Hill Cultural Enrichment team, that organized this event and are working on **two** more events for the upcoming school year!



Photo taken by 5th grade student photographer, Donovan Edwards

Claypit Hill Reminders

Please feel free to join your child for lunch any day. If you would like a hot lunch, please call the office at 508 358 7401 in the morning *and we will order it for you. Thank you!*



Cold weather is upon us, so please remember to send your child in with a jacket, gloves, hats and warm shoes. If your child is not dressed appropriately for the colder days, he/she will not be able to participate in recess.



The lost and found is overflowing with jackets ,sweathshirts, mittens and hats. Please stop by and see if you can find a lost treasure!



Specialist News

Please visit our specialist's websites for current happenings. (Please click the text to view each website)

[Art News – Ms. Bentley](#)

[Library news – Ms. Burman](#)

[Physical Education News – Mr. Chadsey](#)

[Music News – Ms. Vanaria](#)

[Technology Update – Ms. Colbert](#)

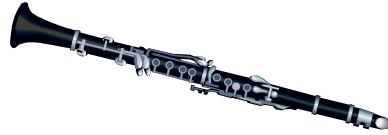
[Strings Update – Ms. Tandon \(4th and 5th grade\)](#)

[Band Update – Ms. Keenan](#)

[Strings Update – Ms. Jacobsen \(3rd grade\)](#)



Please join the Claypit Hill musicians for...



Band and Strings Concerts Next week

Band concert- Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

Strings and band concert – Thursday, December 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the gym

Strings concert – Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym

Gift Giving Policies



Gifts Given TO THE TEACHER:

- Public school teachers, as municipal employees, may not accept gifts valued at \$50 or more. Nor can staff members accept (from one family) a number of smaller gifts which together are worth \$50 or more.
- A teacher accepting a gift of less than \$50 from a current student may be required to disclose that gift if it creates the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- A teacher may accept a group gift of up to \$150 per year from his or her class as long as the gift is identified as being from the entire

class, and the identity of the contributors and the amounts given are not identified to the teacher. In addition, no individual family may

Gift Giving Policies, cont.



make a contribution of \$50 or more to a group gift.

- Gifts to individual teachers may be given in the form of gift cards as long as they are in accordance with these limitations.

Gifts Given TO THE CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL:

- Gifts of \$200 or more to individual classrooms, schools, or the district (as opposed to the teacher) require School Committee approval and acceptance. Gifts of less than \$200 may be approved and accepted by a principal or the superintendent.
- Classroom gifts in the form of cash must be deposited and processed through a town account, although reimbursements may be made after an authorized gift purchase.
- Under no conditions can gift cards be given as a classroom gift since they cannot be deposited in a town account.
- Gifts In General:
 - The School Committee policy recommends: "In lieu of gifts to individual teachers, parents are encouraged to make contributions to school support organizations such as the PTO, CAPA, Boosters, and the Wayland Public Schools Foundation."
 - Finally, many teachers truly experience "Thank You" notes as one of the best gifts they can receive.

News from the Health Room

Head Lice

- Parents should check their child's head as part of their daily routine at home. Early detection for head lice helps to prevent additional cases from occurring in a classroom. Educational information is available at:
- www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheet.htm
- www.headlice.org
- <http://www.webmd.com/children/ss/slideshow-lice-overview>
- The school nurse is available to answer any questions/concerns

When should you keep your child home:

A child should stay home for at least 24 hours to rest if the following symptoms are- present the morning of school or the previous night:

- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Fever of 100.4 degrees
- Itchy or reddened eyes with drainage
- An unusual rash
- A poor night's sleep due to illness, cough, etc.

Winter weather is upon us:

- Please be sure that your child is appropriately dressed with the colder days here (snow pants, coats, hats, mittens, etc)
- Children should have a change of clothes available, placed in their backpacks, in the event that clothes get wet during the school day.

3rd Grade Parent(s) :

- Students entering 4th grade require an up-to-date physical within the school year. It is required by the MA Department of Public Health. As your child has his/her annual physical done, after August 1, 2014, please send a copy to the school nurse.

Thank you and, as always, any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me,

Cindy Forti, RN

Cindy_forti@wayland.k12.ma.us

508-359-3779



Calendar of Events for December and January

EVENT	Location	Date(s)
Band Concert	Gym	Wednesday, December 10 th 7 p.m.
Strings and Band Concert	Gym	Thursday, December 11 th 10 -11 a.m.
Strings Concert	Gym	Thursday, December 11 th 7 p.m.
Last day of school for 2014		Tuesday, December 23 rd 3:00 dismissal
All school meeting	Gym	Monday, January 12 th 9-9:30 a.m.
5th Grade Chorus Concert	Gym	Thursday, January 15 th 10:00 a.m.
Holiday - MLK Day (no school)		Monday, January 19 th
Martin Luther King Dinner	Middle School	Friday, January 23 rd 6-9 p.m.

