



**Jennings**  
**Elementary School**

## *December 15th Jennings Journal*

Hello Jennings.

I wanted to pass along the sincere gratitude of the Holiday Adopt a Child organizers. The outpouring of generosity was amazing and is just another indicator how special the Jennings community is. The overwhelming amount of gift cards collected have been sent along to brighten up the holiday season of a child or family in need. I am proud to be a part of this tremendously caring community!

I wanted to remind everyone that they are invited to the Holiday Sing Along on December 23rd at 2:30. All are welcome to join us as we wrap up and put a bow on 2014. If you plan on attending please send in a note or call the main office to let us know. This greatly assists the office staff in welcoming everyone while maintaining the safety and security of the building.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Vuolo

### **Important school information**

#### **Mrs. Britell**

Jennings School welcomes Mrs. Michelle Britell to our family. This week Mrs. Britell takes over the nursing reigns full time. We are very excited to have her start and know she will receive a warm welcome from our entire community. She will be training at the health department the first few days and will hopefully join us by week's end.

#### **Curriculum Corner**

The teachers and students recently have been working on questioning and feedback throughout all curriculum areas. One way to developing math thinking and teach students to think flexibly is to ask good questions. [CLICK HERE](#) for some good questions you might ask at home!

Happy Questioning!

Mrs. Ruppert

## **Library Learning Commons**

Mrs. P has been very busy engaging all of our grade levels in activities that stretch the minds of our students. You can keep up to date on what is happening by reading her blog. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the latest posting.

## **Lockdown**

Last Tuesday we held our second lockdown drill of the year. Officer Clark, from the Fairfield Police Department, observed our protocols and procedures. He told us that we implemented the lockdown at a very high level and he was impressed with some of the additional checks and balances we have in place to keep our community of learners safe. Way to go Jennings!

## **Holiday Cards**

The past several years we have a tradition of posting the beautiful holiday cards created by our Jennings staff and families. We have continued this tradition and kindly ask for your participation. You can send in your family holiday card to the main office and the secretaries will begin to create the wall of cards by hanging them on the windows as you enter the school. The first few cards sent in last week have already captured the attention of passersby. We cannot wait for it to grow to an even larger display. Thank you in advance for helping to bring a little bit of holiday cheer to the building!

## **Mitten Tree**

Another tradition we are continuing is our Mitten Tree. The Mitten Tree is a wonderful display of our community thinking of the needs of others during the cold winter months. The concept is very simple. The tree will begin with a creative display of paper gloves, mittens, hats and scarves. As staff and students bring in donations of real hats, gloves, scarves and mittens they take a paper copy off the tree and replace it with the donated item. All sizes and shapes are welcomed.

You can see in the picture below how beautiful the tree is. Soon all of the paper items will be traded for real items to keep those in need a bit warmer this winter season. In the years past we have been able to collect and donate over 200 items and give them to Operation Hope and The Bridgeport Rescue Mission. This gesture exemplifies the lessons we teach as parents and teachers and shows how just "One" person can make a difference in others lives.

Additionally, there are two boxes located in the front foyer for toy drive donations. One is sponsored by the Fairfield Police Department and the other by the Fairfield Custodial Union. All toys will go to families that may struggle this holiday season. Donations will be collected this week.

Thank you in advance for your kind and generous donations. It demonstrates how Jennings CARES each and every day.

## **Recess during the Winter**

As mentioned in previous Journals, we want our families to know that we prefer to send students outside, as appropriate, during the winter months. Research supports the need for children to be as active as possible during the cold weather months. Therefore we urge families to send their children to school with proper winter attire. Unless it is deemed too dangerous or too cold, the students will have their 20 minutes outside to release their energy.

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

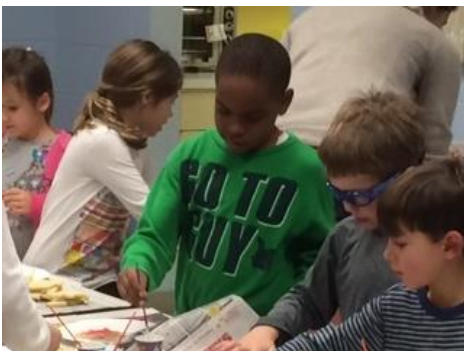
We kindly ask that all parents supervise their children and drop off at appropriate areas of our campus. We have strategically placed our supervision in areas to support students and parents. Please use the crosswalks as safety is of the utmost importance at all times.

This Week's Reminders...

- “B” Monday**            **Floor Hockey 3-5...3:30 PM**  
                                 **American Girl K-5...3:30 PM**
- “C” Tuesday**            **Grade 4 Orchestra... 8:00 AM**  
                                 **Chess and Snow Globes...3:30 PM**  
                                 **Grade 3 Brownie meeting**
- “D” Wednesday**        **Games with Mr. C K-2...3:30 PM**
- “E” Thursday**            **Staff Breakfast 8:20 AM**  
                                 **ATB Minecraft 3-5...3:30**  
                                 **ATB Clay Creations 2-5...3:30**
- “A” Friday**                **Grade 5 Band... 8:00 AM**  
                                 **ATB Minecraft...3:30**

For more information [CLICK HERE](#) for our weekly Digital Message

Please see below for the pictures of the week!



The winter  
After the  
Bell  
activities are  
off to a  
great start





The Mitten Tree is standing in the front foyer...welcoming all visitors. Thanks to the Jennings students it is decorated with paper mittens. Thanks to the generosity of Jennings families it will soon be full of donations to keep those in need warm this winter.



The newest addition to the Library Learning Commons is a cozy tent where students can get lost in a book!



Grade 4 students work with the laptops in Mrs. Lewin's class. The laptop cart is in high demand at Jennings!

Keep an eye out for Next Week's Pictures!