



**Jennings**  
**Elementary School**

## *December 8th Jennings Journal*

Hello Jennings.

Last week we said goodbye to Nurse Chapman. Candace had been such a positive part of the Jennings community and will be missed. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Michelle Britell to our family. Although her official start date is not until the 15th, Mrs. Britell spent some time transitioning with Mrs. Chapman last week. We kindly ask for your patience in advance as Mrs. Britell assimilates to both Fairfield and Jennings.

Mrs. Britell is currently finishing an assignment at one of the State technical high schools servicing over 800 students where she is the only nurse. Her work history also includes pediatric and maternity nursing at Yale and Stamford hospitals. In addition, she worked for more than 5 years at Fairfield County Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Associates of Norwalk where she performed allergy testing and education for patients with allergies and asthma.

We are very excited to have her join the Fairfield Health Department and our family. I am sure that the staff, parents and students will warmly welcome her. Please contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Vuolo

### **Important school information**

#### **Progress Reports**

Progress reports will be released on December 12th. It is important to note that the progress reports can only be viewed on the main portal and not on your mobile device. If you need any assistance please contact the main office for support.

#### **Curriculum Corner**

Do you ever wonder how you can help your children solve tricky words at home? Well here's a fun poem to help you help your little reader. The strategies in this poem are all strategies that they are learning here in school. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the poem posted on the website

Happy Reading!  
Mrs. Hyder

## **Lockdown**

On Tuesday, December 9th, our staff and students will participate in our second Lockdown Drill of the year. We participate in safety drills as a measure of preparedness so that reactions in an actual emergency will be second nature. We always hold discussions and debriefing sessions with both staff and students in order to ensure everyone is feeling comfortable with the protocols and procedures. Feel free to talk with your children about the experience and reach out to the school staff with any questions or concerns. Mrs. D'Amura, Mr. Therriault and I will make ourselves available to support student and family needs as they arrive.

## **Holiday Cards**

The past several years we have a tradition of posting the beautiful holiday cards created by our Jennings staff and families. We would like to continue 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. It is ALWAYS one of the favorite displays of the year and captures the attention of those who pass it daily. 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.

Soon the tree is transformed into a beautiful display of items that will be collected and donated to a local facility in need. 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.

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.

This Week's Reminders...

- “B” Monday** Kdg Fieldtrip to CT Audubon 12:15p  
Grade 1 Daisy troop #33259
- “C” Tuesday** Grade 4 Orchestra 8am  
ATB Holiday cookie decorating  
Boy scout troop #199 at 7pm
- “D” Wednesday**
- “E” Thursday** ATB Minecraft & Painting mugs  
Grade 2 Brownie troop #33232
- “A” Friday** Progress reports released on Infinite Campus  
Grade 5 Band & orchestra 8am  
5C Art in the Classroom 2:20pm  
ATB Minecraft  
Gr 2,3 & 4 Kids Night Out 6:30pm

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

Please see below for the pictures of the week!



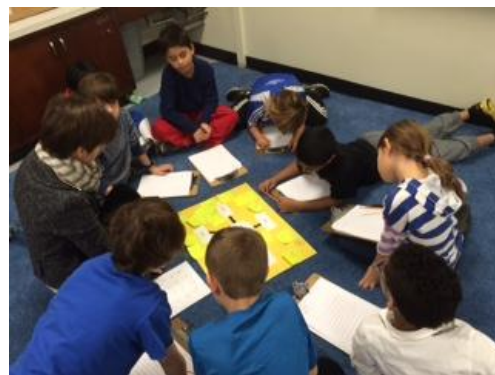
Grade 1 students find comfortable spots to do their independent reading during reading workshop.



Our newest PTA Bulletin Board...themed Random Acts of Kindness



We say farewell to our wonderful friend, colleague and caregiver... Nurse Chapman.



Grade 3 students work with Mrs. P on a research project in the computer lab.

Keep an eye out for Next Week's Pictures!