

MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

635 MILL HILL TERRACE, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT 06890
KEVIN CHASE, PRINCIPAL
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**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Families,

Despite what holiday you may celebrate, it is evident from your children's writing that they have fond memories of the time spent with family. In my travels to classrooms, I have read several heartwarming stories that discuss traditions, family, and holidays. Some mentioned small decorations that seemed almost magical, and others wrote about the regular visits to or from relatives they rarely see. I know that I have many fond memories spent with family and friends, whether gathering around a fire, playing board games, or playing in the snow. Oddly enough, or maybe not so, I can't seem to remember what I received as gifts all that well. It seems my memories are very much in line with your children in that few of them seemed to mention gifts either. So, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, Happy New Year, enjoy what you may, but most of all, take this time to slow down and enjoy family and friends. Trust me, it's an investment well spent in the lives of your children as evidenced by what they value most.

I wish you all the best this holiday season and health and happiness in the New Year!

Regards,
Kevin Chase
Principal

REMINDERS:

Recess

The cold weather has officially arrived! It can get quite cold on our playground. Please remind your children to wear any coats, hats, and gloves that you send them to school with at recess. Your child will not be allowed to go to recess if they come ill prepared for colder temperatures.

It is my goal and general philosophy that our children should be outside as much as possible. Research has proven that our children not only need the physical activity, but that it also benefits their overall academic achievement as well. I will be utilizing the Child Care Weather Watch tool that the State of Connecticut recommends to determine safe conditions in regard to the temperature. You can find the chart at:

<https://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/weatherwatch.pdf>

In addition to monitoring the temperature, the staff and I will regularly monitor the play areas in order to determine safe conditions. This refers mostly to making determinations as it pertains to icy or slick areas or hard packed snow. However, I would very much like to allow children to play in the snow if the conditions are safe and they wear proper snow attire. If this is something that your child would be interested in doing, they must come to school with clothing that is warm and water resistant/proof, and can be put on independently or with minimal assistance (thinking of K students). We will not allow students in the snow if they come unprepared. And, I know this goes without saying, but I wouldn't be much of a principal if I failed to mention that throwing snowballs is not permitted and will result in a minimal consequence of suspension from recess.



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Drop off, Pick-up & Parking

I think that we can all agree that taking the few extra minutes to abide by laws of safety are of the utmost importance for our school community. Please heed the following:

- All regular hour morning drop-offs must only be on Mill Hill Road or the Stop, Kiss, Drop loop. The front parking lot and bus circle is strictly for staff and buses.
- If you pick up your child(ren) at the end of the day, please use only designated parking spots. Parking is available along the fence of the Stop, Kiss, Drop loop, on Mill Hill Road, and it is also acceptable to park in any open spots in the staff parking lot at this point in the day.
- Additionally, the Fairfield Police Department has once again informed me that they will be issuing tickets to people who park the wrong way on Mill Hill Road. They have already issued a few warnings to some families. I have witnessed several near accidents as parents cut across the divider to park near the top of the stairs.

Principal Coffee

I will be hosting a Principal Coffee on January 16, in the LLC. I will use this opportunities to deepen parent understanding of core areas, curriculum, expectations for students, and answer questions. Please mark your calendars for 9:15, January 16.

National PTA School of Excellence Committee

Thank you for the positive response to the PTA S.o.E. survey that was administered earlier in the year, and thank you to all those parents who have donated their time to help serve on the committee. The committee has used the results to determine next steps and has come up with some exciting ideas that you will see mentioned and offered to our community after the New Year. So look out for those!

Hoops for Hope!

Yes, it's nearing that time of year again... time for the Mill Hill Dunk Squad to showcase its talents against another school and move to 3-0 (not that we're keeping track). This year's game will be against Sherman with the donation made to support the children's toy closet at St. Vincent's Hospital. Information regarding the exact date and time will follow very soon after the New Year.

