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Dear Sherman Community Members,

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, Hanukkah, and fun! The town is aglow with twinkling lights in windows, on tress, and yes I have even seen them on cars! It is a magical time of year when we celebrate family traditions and customs that bring us joy and peace. I wish you all a very magical holiday season.

AS you know, part of our social curriculum is related to Responsive Classroom and CARES, *cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.* Recently I have seen some things happen that have demonstrated to me that the children are taking notice and implementing what they are learning. An incident happened in fifth grade with some of the boys. When we talked out the problem one boy said, “I want being nice to be cool”, and so started a journey of discussion with the boys in fifth grade that is uncovering some wonderful ideas and heartfelt solutions to trying to follow the golden rule. All of the fifth grade classes received proud board recognition from Ms. Cardillo our music teacher. This has never happened in my eleven year tenure at Sherman. The lessons of CARES are being learned. This class has had this initiative strongly implemented in their years at Sherman and I am happy to say these reflective young men have a real desire to support each other and make being nice cool. I won’t go into our conversations, you can ask them, but all fifth grade boys will have a chance to join me for a lunch bunch to discuss this. When the boys have cycled through then I will meet with the girls. You can talk to your child even if he/she is not in fifth grade. At our town meeting we talked about being assertive in a positive way and to help make our school even better. Our PTA safety committee helped present a mini skit starring Mr. Carr on personal safety related to being assertive. I think you will find that we are all learning to use our words productively. All of this ties into our school goals which are posted on our school website for you to look at. The results of our school wide survey are in and are connected to our school goals. This will be discussed at the next PTA meeting on January 21st. I hope to see you there.

Progress reports will be available on Infinite Campus this Friday. While you are on IC, please be sure to update any information in IC such as email addresses, emergency contact information, and new cell phone numbers.

As we say good bye to 2014 and welcome a New Year, I’d like to say thank you for all that you do to make our school a special place.

Until next time…..happy days!

Warmly,

Eileen