



December 2011
Mrs. Feyers
Principal,
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Mt Penn Primary Center

December Happenings at Mt. Penn

The winter season is quickly approaching; the leaves are nearly gone and there definitely is a nip in the early morning air. The month of December moves quickly with an abundance of activities in the classrooms. Please read the weekly newsletter that our teachers send home to find out what your child's classroom will be doing.

***The first Friday (December 2nd) is an early dismissal.** Early dismissal times are opportunities for our teachers to continue to grow and learn through professional development activities provided by the district. It also provides a time for the teachers to work together with others either in the grade level or across grade levels to analyze student data and help each student reach their potential.*

***RTI (response to intervention) is now in full swing!** What is "Response to intervention"? It is a tiered approach for all students K-6 that enables our staff to meet the individual needs of each student. For 30 minutes each day, our students rotate among the grade level staff and receive reading instruction that meets each of their individual needs. Some of the students receive remediation for a particular skill(s), some practice skills learned in the classroom, and others receive enrichment. While the students enjoy these intervention groups, our teachers truly are giving each student the opportunity to learn and grow in their literacy skills.*

***School Store:** This is an excellent opportunity for our students to experience the basic fundamentals of money. Small items are sold by a PTL volunteer, and children learn about the value of their dollar. The teachers ask that students that are not sent with any more than \$2 for this day (please check with your student's teacher).*

***PTL sponsored Holiday Event:** Saturday, December 10th please look for flyers as they come home! Children can visit Santa, create a Gingerbread House, and make a holiday craft.*

***Collection of winter items:** With the holiday season upon us and cold winter approaching, our first grade team will be collecting winter accessories such as gloves, mittens, hats and scarves and place them on a tree in their hallway. Their hope is to help needy families in our community. If you would like to donate, please send the items in with your child.*

Wishing you and your family a healthy, happy holiday season!

Mrs. Feyers

**Mrs. Galvin's
Corner**

It is already December and the holidays are near,
We already have learned so much in this school year.
In reading the words are flowing off the pages,
And in math we adding and subtracting on different stages.
We are spelling words that we study together,
And writing them in sentences and are we getting better!
But one of the most important things we do with care,
Is to treat everyone kindly and always be fair.
As the holidays approach us our wish to you and all you hold dear,
Is to have joy and peace that will echo throughout the New Year!



READING SPECIALIST

Our Kindergarten groups have learned 22 letters and sounds so far. They are doing a great job of forming their letters, but could all benefit from some extra practice at home. They are working hard to learn some sight words: a, I, and, see, like, my, to. They especially enjoy writing them in sand or on gel –boards. You can have them find them in stories and even practice writing them at home as well.

Our first grade groups have been working hard to learn about glued sounds all, am, an. They are learning how to find these chunks when reading. They continue to tap out words to read and spell and also how to write good sentences. They have developed a nice bank of high frequency words that they can read and write. These words we call our tricky words because they aren't spelled the way they sound. They just have to learn them through repetition and memory. Please continue to have your child read with you daily and practice what they are learning at school.

Mrs. Stank, Ms. Hess

ATTENDANCE

Reminder that our doors open at 8:10 for breakfast, 8:20 for all students and the bell rings at 8:30. Since our school day begins immediately, it is important that your child arrive on time. Please make sure that your child is in the school prior to the bell so that they are in their classroom by 8:30.

PRINCIPAL NOTES

Unless a student is holding the hand of a parent or guardian, they must cross at the corner crosswalk. Parents must park at a designated area along curbs; please do not 'double park' as this potentially puts our students in danger if they were to cross between parked cars.

Doors open for breakfast at 8:10; please do not drop off students earlier. Students not coming for breakfast enter at 8:20.

FOOD SERVICES

Lunch cost is \$2.35 and Breakfast cost is \$1.25. E-Funds for Schools is a program that you can access on the Antietam School District Website or Skyward so that you may manage your child's lunch account. This is a simple way to add money to his/her account when it starts to get low.

SCHOOL ALLERGIES

We have a number of students with significant peanut allergies in our district. Please minimize any peanut products (snacks and/or lunch items) that you send with your child. Thank you for your consideration of the health of our fellow students!

HEALTH UPDATE

Please encourage your child to wash their hands frequently. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available. Cough and/or sneeze into their sleeves when tissues aren't available. When your child has a fever, please keep them home for 24 hours after the fever breaks.

ATTENDANCE

If your child will be absent, please call the office in the morning. You can either leave it on voice mail before 7:30, or speak with a secretary. (610-370-2898).

SCHOOL VISITS

For safety measures we will be requesting that all visitors bring a picture identification to enter our school. Prior to entering you will be asked:

- Your name
- To place your identification in the silver box (camera) & stand on yellow paw prints
- Your reason or purpose of visit

SKY ALERT

The Sky Alert System will contact you in the event of a school delay, dismissal, or other informative announcement. If you change your phone or email contact, please notify us immediately.

DECEMBER 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY		
			1 Picture Retakes	2 12:30 Early Dismissal	3	4		
	6	7	8	9	10 PTL HOLIDAY EVENT	11		14
	13	14	15	16	17	18		20
Lunch With Principal "Friendly"	20	21	22	23	24	25		26
5	27 Winter Holiday No School	28 Winter Holiday No School	29 Winter Holiday No School	30 Winter Holiday No School	31 Winter Holiday No School			