

Woodland Newsletter

February 2022

Message from Principal

Dear Woodland Families,

Unseasonably cold temperatures has become a recent pattern for our local weather! Please note that we will not participate in outdoor activities with any temperature below 16 degrees with wind chill factored in to get to the real feel temperature. Nurse Joanna Sudmyer and I review the daily temperature throughout the day so that students are kept safe within the weather constraints of New England. Therefore, we strongly urge that students come prepared with appropriate winter gear every school day.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in students bringing cell phones to school. We understand that some families have made that decision based on their own personal needs. We continue to have many discussions with students regarding appropriate use of technology within the school, however, cell phones offer even broader access to students, much of which is outside of the developmentally appropriate age range for our younger students. There are many safeguards available on the cell phones so students do not have complete freedom to access developmentally inappropriate content. We encourage families to make use of the safeguards that you feel are appropriate for your child. We also ask that you have a discussion with your child about appropriate cell phone use and expectations for the school day. If you are allowing your child to bring their cell phone to school, make sure they know it is their responsibility to care for it. The schools are not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

Please note that **cell phone use is not allowed during the school day**. If a student needs to contact a parent, they should notify a teacher who will assist them in contacting home. Therefore, we expect that cell phones are turned off and put into backpacks upon entering the school property each day. Students can access their phones at the end of each school day. Your help in managing this by having a conversation periodically with your child would be greatly appreciated.

As a faculty, we continue to attend professional development sessions focused on Culturally Responsive Education. During our previous session, we discussed the importance of building rapport with our students. Rapport is the connection one has with another person that results in warmth, friendliness, and affirmation. Zaretta Hammond, author of *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain*, explains that affirmation means acknowledging the personhood of students. This can be through words and actions that convey that you care about them. Hammond is very clear to explain the difference between affirmation and building self esteem. Affirming students and building rapport, is about building trust, not building self esteem. She explains that building trust actually frees up brain space for creativity, learning, and higher order thinking. We will continue to build trusting partnerships with our students because we know that building authentic connections is the foundation for academic and emotional growth.

Sincerely,
Jennifer G. Faber

Dates to Remember

- Two-rrific Spirit Day on **Wednesday, February 2nd**. Flyer sent home with information.
- Early Release Dismissal on **Wednesday, February 2nd at 11:30am**.
- School Council meeting on **Monday, February 7th at 2:30pm** via Zoom. All are welcome.
- Incoming Kindergarten Information Night on **Tuesday, February 15th from 6:00-7:00pm** via Zoom.
- Principal Coffee on **Wednesday, February 16th at 9:00am** via Zoom. More details to follow.
- Spirit Week on **February 14th through Friday, February 18th**. More details to follow.
- No school **Monday, February 21st until Friday, February 25th** due to February vacation.

Mark
Your
Calendar