

Hannah News

Inside this issue:

Gift Drive	2
Coats for Kids	2
Thank you	2
Winter Concerts	3
School Store	4
Study Island	5
Movie Trip	6

Dates to remember:

- Dec. 10: Early Release Day— 12:00 dismissal
- Dec. 15: Study Island Info Night for Gr. 4 and 5 parents @ 6 pm
- Dec. 19: *Tale of Despereaux* Trip
- Dec. 22: Winter Concert Gr. K-2 @1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 23: Winter Concert Gr. 3-5 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 24: No school
- Dec. 25-Jan. 2, 2009: December vacation

A Word from the Principal...

In December, the days get shorter and children's excitement seems to rise as many anticipate holidays and gifts they may wish to receive. But holidays are also a time for giving and even the youngest child should learn about giving to others. At Hannah, we have had opportunities for students to donate food or used coats or pennies or boxtops. Children who learn to appreciate what they have and share their good fortune grow up to be happy people. When children, or adults for that matter, always wish for more than they have, they are setting themselves up for disappointment. I hope that the Thanksgiving holiday provided students with an opportunity to think about the things for which they are thankful. As I walked through classrooms last week, I heard many conversations about thankfulness. The daughter of one lucky mom told her teacher that she was thankful for her mom because she was always nice to her. This season, remind your child how lucky he or she is to have a kind family or a nice house or good friends or a teacher who really cares. There are many blessings to count. For some of us, the downturn in



Let it snow. Let it snow. Let it snow.

the economic conditions may mean fewer or less expensive gifts, but that doesn't necessarily mean an unhappy holiday. In my family, we each plan to write a compliment for each family member for every day of December. That means that each day in December, I will get to read 3 nice things about myself. I couldn't ask for a better gift than to know that my family appreciates me and took the time to tell me!

Save Your Shaw's Receipts for Hannah

After a few unsuccessful attempts at registering for the Shaw's Rewards program, the Hannah School is officially participating in this program. If you shop at Shaw's, send us your receipts and we will submit them for cash back for the Hannah PTO.

The receipts will be accepted in the office alongside the Boxtops for Education collection container. Thank you for your support!

Gift Drive

Each year, the Hannah School community partners with the Beverly Center for Family Development in their gift drive. Families who request assistance from the Center for Family Development provide the ages of their children and suggested gifts. Hannah families, who are able, may choose a tag from the gift board that will be on display during the month of December and shop for that item. If you take a tag, please return it with the unwrapped gift to the school office. Our PTO liaison for this project is Catherine Barrett. A flier with additional information about specific dates will follow soon.



The Polar Express

Special Thanks to Brenden Crocker and Milissa Oraibi for donating their time and fabulous restaurant for the Hannah Horse fundraiser! Special thanks also to all the teachers who donated their time and expertise as servers during this fun event!

Reminder: It is important for students to arrive at school on time. We have been experiencing a large number of tardy arrivals. Traffic seems to back up in the mornings between 7:55 and 8:05. Arrive on time—before 7:50—and avoid the traffic! Your child will be happy to start his/her day on a good note. If your child does arrive after 7:50, please send them in the front door.

Coats for Kids

We continue to collect gently used winter coats for donation to the Coats for Kids program. This program matches those in need of outerwear with clean coats in good condition. Anton's Cleaners donates their services to clean all donated coats and local organizations like the Salvation Army distribute the coats. We have taken one load of coats to Anton's already, but will continue to collect coats until the end of December. The drop off box is on the bench in

the front lobby. Coats of all sizes are accepted. We will donate anything from baby sizes to adult sizes as there is a need for all kinds of coats. They will also accept lighter coats too.

Poinsettia Pick Up

If you ordered poinsettias from our grade 5 fundraiser, you may pick them up after school on Dec. 3rd in the lobby.

Beverly Bootstraps Thank You

During these trying economic times, we are struck by the generosity of the Hannah school community. Thank you to all those who donated food items to the Beverly Bootstraps Food Drive!



Home is where the heart is.

We sent 7 full boxes of food to Bootstraps to help fill Thanksgiving Baskets and stock shelves

at their Food Pantry. They report a substantial increase in demand for their services this year and the Hannah School has helped to make the season a little easier for some families.

Thank you for your generosity!



Winter Concerts at Hannah

This year at Hannah, we will have two winter concerts. On Monday, December 22, students in grades K-2 will perform for parents at 1:00 p.m. On Tuesday, December 23, students in grades 3-5 will perform for parents at 1:00.



Winter is coming!

Students have been learning about rhyme, rhythm, and song in music class with Mrs. Retallack. This year's concerts are based on the works of Susan Cooper, who was inspired by the work of John Langstaff and a performance called "The Revels." The Revels collection of music is a joyous combination of words,

music, and dance that celebrates the Winter Solstice. The contrast between day and night is the framework for myth and legend of long ago. It also relates to holiday celebrations of the season. Of the four seasons we enjoy, the beginning of winter is at the heart of the metaphor for renewal—the gradual lengthening of days and re-birth of vegetation that will begin after the shortest day of the year. Every year, hope is reborn. This is part of The Revels celebration of the Winter Solstice. This collection of songs, customs, and dances is based on very early traditions held by many cultures.

Mrs. Retallack has been working with students to learn about customs, cultures, and music. Children have been singing and enjoying themselves and are anxious to share what they have learned with you, their parents. We hope you will be able to attend.



School Store December Hours

As you know, our fifth grade class runs the School Store, which generally stocks school supplies. The School Store is open each Thursday after school.

During the month of December, there will be some special offerings for sale. Students may wish to purchase items that make nice gifts for parents or siblings. Fifth graders will be making some special items to sell and other gift items have been ordered.

The School Store will be open during school hours on **December 9th**. Students who bring money that day will have the opportunity to shop at the School Store during the morning hours.

The School Store will also be open after school on the following Thursdays: December 4, 11, and 18.

All proceeds from the School Store benefit the 5th grade class activities.

*Barry Burbank, from
Channel 4 News, will visit
Hannah to speak with
fourth and fifth graders
about weather forecasting
and meteorology on*

Dec. 4.

Study Island Information Night

Hannah School fourth and fifth graders have access to the web-based program, Study Island. Teachers have sent home information with usernames and passwords.



We would like to provide parents with an opportunity to see the program and have it explained to them here in the Hannah computer

lab.

This informational meeting will take place on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Babb and Mrs. Snyder will be available to explain the program, answer questions, and give parents the opportunity to see how the program works.

Parents of all 4th and 5th graders are invited to attend.



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*Be kind. Be responsible. Be the best
you can be. The choice is yours.*



Hannah School Mission Statement

The Hannah Elementary School strives to meet the individual needs of its students by encouraging them to become life-long learners. The students, staff, and families work collaboratively to promote academic excellence by using programs and curricula that are current and research-based. Teachers and support staff provide opportunities to meet students' diverse needs and abilities as measured by district, state, and national standards. The Hannah community is committed to meeting the needs of the whole child. By fostering emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth, we will create an atmosphere of respect for each member of our school.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

All educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities at Beverly Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and any other class or characteristic protected by law.

Movie Trip

As a special treat this December, the entire Hannah School will pay a visit to the Salem Cinema to see the movie, "The Tale Of Despereaux ." The film is based on the Newbery Award winning book by Kate DiCamillo, who also wrote "Because of Winn Dixie." The story is a fairy tale about a small mouse with big ears and explores the nature of love, hope, and forgiveness.

At Hannah, we plan to read the book aloud in grades 2-5 and provide activities around listening comprehension, character analysis, and comparisons to other tales.

There are teacher resources available as well as computer aids to instruction.

The trip will take place on December 19th. The cost of the trip will be \$6 per child. If this presents a hardship for your family, please contact Mrs. Snyder. Look for a permission slip soon!

