



# Hannah News

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2009

Hannah School

## A Word from the Principal...

### Inside this issue:

Winter Concerts	2
Pennies for Fuel	2
Movie trip	2
H1N1 Forum	3
Reminders	3
Morning Meeting	4

### Dates to remember...

- \* December 11: Report cards sent home
- \* December 18: Trip to "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"
- \* December 18: Strings rehearsals (gr. 3 @3:30; gr. 4 @4:00; gr. 5 @ 4:30 p.m.) @ Briscoe
- \* December 21: Choral Concert Grades K-2 @ 9:00 a.m.
- \* December 21: All City Strings Concert @ 7:00 p.m. at Briscoe M.S.
- \* December 22: Choral Concert Grades 3-5 @ 9:00 a.m.
- \* December 24, 2009-January 3, 2010: Vacation

December is a busy month for all of us. There is much excitement in the air and we rush to get everything done. This time between Thanksgiving and the winter holidays is a good time to stop and remember what we are grateful for and the importance of teaching children about giving during a time when they anticipate RECEIVING.

Community service and giving has become a part of many schools. In my children's High School, as in many others, students are required to complete and document at least 40 hours of community service as a graduation requirement. At the elementary level, we can start by giving stu-

dents opportunities to learn about giving. We have a number of these opportunities: the food drive for Beverly Bootstraps, Coats for Kids, the Holiday Gift Drive, and Pennies for Fuel to name a few. Many service learning advocates feel that by helping others, children can learn responsibility, build character and citizenship qualities, and discover the special joys of giving.

You can show your children that you care about giving back to the community by volunteering here at school or elsewhere in the community. Some families even



'Tis the season...

have children help with volunteer ideas like making decorations for a hospital or the senior center at holiday time.

You may want to consider allowing your child to purchase a gift for you at our school store or give them the chance to make something as a gift for you or other family members.

## Holiday Gift Drive

Once again, the Hannah School community will participate in a gift drive for the benefit of children who are clients at the Center for Family Development here in Beverly.

If you are able to help out,

just stop by the bulletin board in the school's front lobby and take a tag. The tag will have the age, gender, and gift request on it. All gifts that are donated should be new and unwrapped. When you drop off your gift, please be sure

to attach the tag. There will be a box in the school office. All donations must be received by December 18th. Most gift requests are under \$20.

## Winter Concerts at Hannah

On December 21st at 9:00 a.m., students in grades K-2 will perform in a choral concert in the Hannah cafeteria. Students in grades 3-5 will perform on December 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

Parents are invited to attend the concerts. We ask that you be sure to park in a marked space and refrain from leaving any vehicles in the fire lane or in the service driveway.

Mrs. Retallack has been working with students during music class time each week. Students are learning songs from *The Nutcracker*.

Hannah students have been preparing to perform selections from the very famous and fondly treasured *Nutcracker Ballet* by Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky. This year we will feature dancing and playing instruments to show off skills you might not otherwise see in this concert setting. We will also sing songs adapted from the melodies of the ballet. We hope to bring to the stage



**It's a Winter Wonderland**

a sense of wonder and awe of the season through this treasured story.

Students are encouraged to wear festive colors for the concerts.

## Pennies for Fuel

Beverly Bootstraps is a local organization that works to meet the needs of families in trying economic situations. They offer a food pantry and a thrift store. Hannah families have been generous in the past by donating to the food pantry in November.

This year, Bootstraps is requesting assistance in raising money for their fuel assistance program. Families in

need are 'adopted' by Bootstraps, who in turn helps provide funds for heating oil.

Room parents are making collection boxes for each classroom and we are asking families to donate loose change that you may lying around to this program, called, "Pennies for Fuel."

Little by little, the change adds up to a respectable donation. So, If you have

change in the sofa, or in the car, or on top of your dresser, please consider sending it in with your child to help a family stay warm this winter. Thank you.

**Remember...the Service Delivery Driveway is for buses and service vehicles ONLY!**

## We're going to the movies...

We are planning a trip to the movies on December 18th. The whole school will travel to the Salem Cinema.

Grades 3-5 will see the recently released movie, based on the children's book, "Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs."

This funny story will be the most delicious event since macaroni met cheese. The film focuses on a town where food falls from the sky like



rain. Grades K-2 will see "The Princess and The Frog." This story is an adaptation of the fairy tale, "The Frog

Prince," and will allow students to compare the movie with the tradition tale. Students will read the story in class and participate in activities appropriate to their grade level. We will send home permission slips soon.

## Community Forum on H1N1

There will be a Community Forum on Monday December 7, 2009 6:30pm -7:30pm at the Briscoe Middle School Auditorium. Information about H1N1 and precautions will be discussed.

Panel to include:

Dr. Lucas Wolf, Infectious Disease Specialist, Mary Conant, Deputy Director Immunization Program Massachusetts DPH, Dr. Sheryl Silva, Pediatrician and School Physician Beverly Public Schools,

Dr James Hayes, Superintendent Beverly Public Schools, William Burke, Director Beverly Board of Health, and Cathy Riccio, Nurse Leader, Beverly Public Schools. It will be moderated by Representative Mary Grant

*Come ask the experts*



Cover your sneeze and cough with your elbow.

*questions about the H1N1 virus and the programs that the local and state agencies are providing for the Beverly Community. Our thanks to BevCam for taping this program For more information call: 978-922-3229 ext 1165.*

## Word (continued)

Here are some quotes about the joy of giving that you may want to share with your children or family:

Anne Frank:

No one has ever become poor by giving.

Elbert Hubbard:

The love we give away is

the only love we keep.

John D. Rockefeller Jr.:

Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.

Winston Churchill:

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Albert Einstein:

It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.

**December 23rd is a full day of school.**

## Reminders

Even though the weather has been mild so far, please remember that students go outdoors for recess on most days. During the winter months, students should have jackets, hats, and gloves to stay warm. We suggest marking them with your child's name.

If you are missing items, please check out lost and found table in the cafeteria. There are many



Patience is a virtue

'lost' items looking to be 'found.'

When dropping off or picking up your child, please remember that drivers must remain in the vehicles in the lane. Students should not enter or exit vehicles from the driver side and should

not be picked up when a car is double parked!

The service driveway is not for parent use at any time. It is reserved for buses and delivery vehicles. Please DO NOT use it as a quick exit when traffic is backed up in the driveway. Try to set a good example of courtesy and patience for our students. Thank you.

## Hannah School

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

**We're on the web: [www.beverlyschools.org](http://www.beverlyschools.org)**



**Hannah School**

### 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. By fostering emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth, we will create an atmosphere of respect for each member of our school.

### Notice of Non-Discrimination

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.

## School-Wide Morning Meeting

I'm sure you have noticed that every Monday morning, the whole school is meeting in the gym to start the week together. This is a new initiative at Hannah this year. You may wonder why.

Most classrooms begin their day with a morning meeting. While it seems a pleasant way to start the day, it is really so much more. Research tells us that in order for children to learn, they must first have basic needs satisfied. Most folks think of basic needs as food, drink, and sleep. In actuality, we humans need more. We need to feel cared for and valued as people. We need to feel safe and comfortable. We need to feel we are part of a group. If we don't have those needs met, we can feel disenfranchised, unhappy, and unmotivated.

When children start their day in a

positive way and interact with their teachers and peers, it sets the tone for the learning that is yet to come.

At Hannah, we use a "Responsive Classroom" style format in our morning meetings. "Responsive Classroom"



strategies are used in many schools and are based on values we share: Caring, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Control. In a Responsive Classroom morning meeting, students begin by greeting one another by name. This makes them feel welcome. The meetings generally follow a similar format with news and announcements and an activity designed to be both fun and a positive shared experience that builds the sense of group or community. In a classroom setting, students often have the opportunity for sharing as well.

At the school level, we have decided to begin each Monday with a shared morning meeting experience. We hope it is a fun and engaging way to start the week and be energized about our time together as learners.