



December 2012 Newsletter

Christmas Parade

The home and school executive would like to say a **huge** thank you to Rob Thomson for his creative vision for this year's Santa Claus parade float. We would also like to thank Liz Tait for once again heading up our parade committee. Many thanks go out to the Pierce family for the truck, trailer and warm place to work and to all of the many FES parents and kids who helped with costumes, construction, supervision and demolition. To the kids who were our Muppets and chickens - you all did a great job! We could not have put together such an amazing float without all of your help.



Cold Weather

Up until this week, we have had a very mild November. As we enter the month of December it will continue to get colder. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed for our New Brunswick winter weather. Winter jack-

ets, snow pants, hats, mittens, and warm boots will allow our children to stay warm during outside play-time. Unless it is very cold, the children go out for fresh air and exercise for 15 minutes at recess and 30 minutes at noon. Many

children also have the opportunity to play outside when they arrive in the morning. Please remember to label all clothing for easy identification in case items go missing.



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*We, at FES,
wish all families
a Merry Christmas
and a
happy and safe
New Year!*



HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS

Fundraising News

We will be showing **Arthur Christmas** on Sunday, December 9th at 2:00pm in the school gym. Bring some comfy blankets and get into the holiday spirit. Order forms will be coming home with your child very soon. Tickets are \$20.00 per family or \$5.00 for an individual ticket. Admission includes popcorn and a juice box. There will be a limited amount of tickets available at the door and we will have a cash only canteen on site as well.

The Fairvale Home and School is very excited to be offering our families a chance to be V.I.P for the day at one of our school's Christmas concerts! We all know how crazy it can be inside our gym and in our school parking lot on a concert day, so why not take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to make the day a bit easier. Our lucky V.I.P will receive 2 prime parking spaces close to the front of the school and 4 front row seats for the concert. There will be 3 draws, one for each of the three concerts: Tuesday, December 18th concert at 8:30 for Grade 1 - 5 families with last names A-M, Tuesday, December 18th concert at 12:15 for Grade 1 -5 families with last names N-Z and the Kindergarten concert on Wednesday, December 19th at 12:30. Please indicate on your order form which concert you will be attending. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Please return your forms to your child's home room teacher by Friday, December 14th. Winners will be announced via Synrevoice message on Monday, December 17th. **All proceeds are going towards the purchase of audio equipment for our concerts and plays.**

The Fairvale Home and School executive would like to wish all our students, families and staff a happy and healthy holiday season. We look forward to a fun filled 2013.



Fish Aficionado Found!

If you have been in the school lately, we hope you have noticed we have new additions to our fish tank. We are very thankful that Tony Maas has taken on this project for us.

LITERACY CORNER: Mrs. Patterson—Literacy Teacher

'Tis the season and just like Christmas decorations, literacy enrichment ideas are showing up everywhere. Looking for something fun to put under the tree? This week's Scholastic book fair offers many choices of special books that your child can read again and again. I love the idea of a child receiving a book that will give him or her hours of unplugged, off screen enjoyment. Why not sneak literacy learning into a family night with games like Scrabble or Boggle? Many board games have a reading component and can help increase your child's sight vocabulary (without him even suspecting).

This is also the time of year when we get to spend more time with our extended family, sharing memories and passing on our family history. Listening to stories about holidays long past, happy and sad times gives children a sense of belonging and increases their empathy for family members. Practice telling stories also helps them understand how a story is structured, with a beginning middle and end, helping them become better writers.

There are also lots of writing opportunities available during the holidays. Of course almost every child is highly motivated to write their letter to Santa but there are noncommercial reasons to write as well. If you child likes to make presents for the family they can write down each family member's name and cross off the list as they finish their presents. Older children, who have begun to purchase small gifts, can write out ideas for each person before they start.

However you choose to spend the holiday season I wish you lots of relaxing time with family and friends, sharing stories, recipes and many other literacy activities.



Guidance Corner: Building Skills at Home in December

The 3rd of the Seven Habits: Put First Things First

Earlier this year, to illustrate the concept of putting first things first, I conducted an experiment similar to the Big Rock Experiment presented in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families* book, by Stephen Covey. Using geometric shapes, the students in each class gave each shape a "first" designation. They decided that family, school, homework, eating, fresh air, exercise, sleep, etc. were important parts of their lives that couldn't be left out.

I proceeded to fill a plastic see-through bucket with smaller shapes from suggestions of students as to all the things they liked to do, such as watch TV, play video games, play with friends, do extracurricular activities, etc. When the bucket was about half full, I invited students up, one at a time, to see how well they could fit the "first" things in the bucket with the only stipulation being that no items could be sticking out of the top as the bucket represented one day, 24 hours, and no one could have more time than that.

It took a few students coming up before one of them realized that the only way to fit the most important things into their day was to completely empty the bucket, put the "first things" in first and then see how many of the other not as important things they could fit in.

The point is this: If you don't put the important things in first, they hardly ever get in at all. The key is to put first things first. A story from the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Families* brings to the forefront the importance of evaluating exactly what are the "first things" in our lives and hopefully our children are at the top of the list.

A little girl approaches her father's desk where he is diligently writing in his planner.

She stands by him, unnoticed until she finally says, "Daddy, what are you doing?"

Without even looking up, he replies, "Oh, never mind, honey. I'm just doing some planning and organizing. These pages have the names of all the people I need to visit and talk with and all the important things I have to do."

The little girl hesitates then asks: "Am I in that book, Daddy?" I hope the answer is "Yes, of course!" For ways to "live" the third Habit, Put First Things First, check out Stephen Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families* and/or give me a call at 847-6304. Jane Perkins Love

Math Corner

Problem Solving Strategy of the Month: MAKE AN ORGANIZED LIST

Your brain is an organizer. When a problem involves many pieces of information, your brain will have an easier time sorting through it if you make an organized list. A list helps you be sure you have thought of all of the possibilities without repeating any of them. Like drawing a picture or making a diagram, making an organized list helps your brain "see" the problem clearly and find a solution. Try making an organized list to solve these problems:

K - 2	3 - 5	Challenge!
You have three pennies, two nickels and a dime. How many different amounts of money can you make?	If you must use 15 or fewer coins, how many different combinations of coins can be used to make \$1.00?	Tickets for the concert cost \$12 for adults or teenagers and \$6 for children. If the group has \$60, how many adults or teenagers and how many children could go?

In the Spirit of Giving!

As we enter the holiday season we want to instill the spirit of giving. In so doing, we have selected two charities to support as a school community again this year.

We will be collecting non perishable food items as well as toiletries throughout the month of December for the KV Food Basket. Students are encouraged to bring in items throughout the month of December. Admission for parents to the choir concert, and our Christmas concerts will be a non perishable item for the

KV Food Basket. Please have all items in by December 19th.

We will also be supporting Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department toy drive. All donations of toys will go to the Saint John Christmas Exchange program. We would encourage students to bring in a new or **gently** used toy for this cause.

We were informed by the fire department that they are often lacking in presents for older children. If your child at Fairvale has older siblings, we would be happy to take

any of their gently used items as well. All items should be in to our school by Friday, December 14th. Over the past four years our front hallway has been overflowing with toys for the less fortunate in our community.

Together we make a difference to those who may otherwise struggle at Christmas time.

December Dates To Remember



- ⇒ Dec. 3-14 Toy Drive RRFD—Please send in a new or gently used unwrapped toy
- ⇒ Dec. 3-19 Food Drive
- ⇒ December 4 Lunch orders go home
- ⇒ December 5 Home and School Meeting 7:30
- ⇒ Dec. 6 & 13 Skating 5 Robichaud, 4/5 Martin, 1 Palmer, 1 Harroun, K-1 Milburn, 2 Shillington, 2 Josselyn, 1-2 Creamer
- ⇒ Dec. 6 Lunch orders due
- ⇒ Dec. 9 Christmas Movie *Arthur Christmas* 2 PM
- ⇒ Dec. 10 Lunch Period #4 begins
- ⇒ Dec. 12 Choir concert (both gr. 2 and upper elementary) 7pm
- ⇒ Dec. 18 Christmas Concert Grade 1-5 8:30 A-M
- ⇒ Dec. 18 Christmas Concert 12:15 N-Z
- ⇒ Dec. 19 Kindergarten Christmas concert @ 12:30
- ⇒ Dec. 20 Christmas Lip Sync K-5 (student event) @ 9am
- ⇒ Dec. 20 "Night Before Christmas" pajama day
- ⇒ Dec. 21 Last day for students FULL DAY
- ⇒ Jan. 7 & 8 Professional Development for staff
- ⇒ Jan. 9 First day for students

