

# FIRST SCHOOL NEWS

## December 2023

Happy December to One and All!!! Wishing you and Yours a Wonderful Holiday Season! Sincerely, Your Friends at First School

### Thinking of Others During The Season of Giving



We will be collecting new socks, hats, gloves, mittens, and underwear in baby, toddler and children's sizes for a First School donation to

**Hannah's Treasure Chest.** If you would like to participate, please have these to First School by **Thursday Dec. 14.** This is strictly voluntary for our families. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Our First School families are always so giving when asked! We will place the donated items under our Christmas Tree in the front hall.

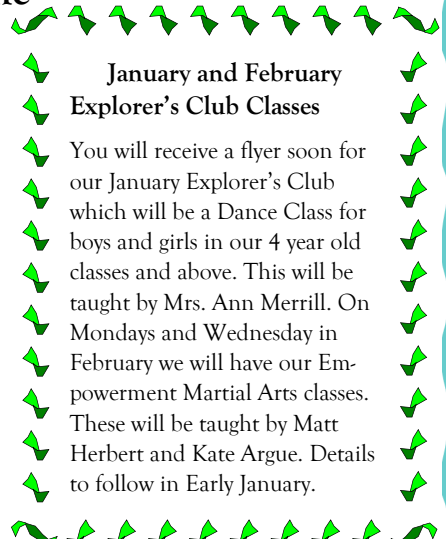


### Get to Know our MWF CarLine Helper, Mr. Ian Simpson!

We are so fortunate to have parent helpers here at First School and we wanted to let you know a little bit about our carline helper, Mr. Simpson, father of Wilder. This is his first year helping us and in his spare time he is learning American Sign Language. He grew up in Oakwood and is married to Nikki and has 3 children, Alex, Wilder and Thatcher. He has been a stay at home Dad since April of 2020 and his answer to the question of what do you like most about being a carline helper was: "I enjoy helping the students, their families and the staff. It's also been great to hear all the funny things kids say each morning!"

### Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 6 & 7 Grinch Days
- Dec. 11 & 12: Elf Spirit Days
- Dec 14: Holiday Donations final day
- Dec. 14 & 15: Jammie Days
- Dec. 16–Jan. 1: Winter Break No School.
- Jan. 2 TUESDAY, 2024 School Resumes. (Monday is a holiday for New Year's Day.)



### January and February Explorer's Club Classes

You will receive a flyer soon for our January Explorer's Club which will be a Dance Class for boys and girls in our 4 year old classes and above. This will be taught by Mrs. Ann Merrill. On Mondays and Wednesday in February we will have our Empowerment Martial Arts classes. These will be taught by Matt Herbert and Kate Argue. Details to follow in Early January.

### Special Notes from The Office:

Please label coats, hats, mittens, gloves with at least the last name or initials. When children come to school lots of friends have the same cute adorable warm clothes we have a hard time if they aren't labeled! Thanks!

If you are in line and have forgotten your Car Tag you may call us on your cell and we'll have the file ready for checking your drivers license while you stay in line.

### December 14 & 15

Wear holiday themed jammies or other fun jammies to school! We'll have some fun activities planned for these last two days of school before break!



Get into **ELF SPIRIT** and wear your favorite holiday clothing on December 11 or 12.



### SNOW DAY INFO

Hopefully this winter will be mild! We have our own notice on the TV stations. If we decide on a delay it will be a one hour delay, opening at 9:40, but dismissing at the normal time of 11:10. Look at our Facebook page for details or a TV weather app or the TV. If Centerville City Schools close, we will close. If they delay two hours, we will delay one hour as mentioned above. Pickup at usual time.



## DECEMBER NUTRITION TIPS FROM PARENT NOELLE THOMAS, RD, LD

Holiday breaks are a common time for families to enjoy each other's company. Think of this as an opportunity! This is a perfect time to get children busy in the kitchen. Allowing them to be involved opens doors to learn about different foods, family traditions, and build skills for their future. It also creates an interest and curiosity in trying new foods. There are endless age appropriate ways to involve your child in the kitchen. For example: Setting the table; Let them pick a recipe; Talk about food and the importance of each food group; Let them grab the ingredients, stir and mix. Now moderation is key! It is okay to indulge in those family favorite recipes, but also encourage them to pick a healthy one. This could be a new tradition for them to help prepare a snack or meal for you.

## GRINCH DAYS!

On December 6 and 7 we are going to help put LOVE and HOPE into the holiday season! Dress up in fun bright colors, wear green, or try out a fancy Who-ville hairdo! Come ready to grow holiday spirit for the Grinch!



### A Special Report on The Dayton Philharmonic String Quartet Visit

Dear Parents: I need to let you know how wonderful your children are. On Friday November 17th, we hosted a string quartet from the Philharmonic. Four musicians entertained all of us with a clever adaptation of the folktale, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children had been prepared about how to behave during a concert and it was obvious that they absorbed that lesson and were an attentive, quiet, engaged and supportive audience. After the beginning of the concert, the first violinist noticed that the children were clapping after each movement (which is a natural reaction, right!) and she instructed them that it is correct behavior to hold their applause until the very end. I personally thought that would not happen, but the children listened and held their applause. Isn't that impressive? The concert had some audience participation which was nailed by the children. I was so impressed. After the concert, the musicians opened it up for questions. We only had time for 3 questions and all of them were smart and thoughtful. My favorite was "Why is the Troll so mean" and the cellist answered "well, I guess he has some things he has to work through". Funny. Anyway, after the concert was over and the musicians were packing up their instruments, they made a point of mentioning to me how impressed they were with our kids and their behavior and their questions. They visit many schools performing the same program and they asked me, "How old are these kids, again?". When I said 3-5, they said, "You have future leaders here!". :) Fondly, Stacey

