



# December Newsletter

## Essex Elementary School

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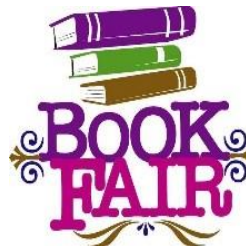
**Volume 23 Issue 3**

Updates from your Proud Principal...



First, I wanted to thank you for a wonderful month of November! I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing school community. I know that the generosity and support will continue through December and the Holiday Season.

In December, we have many exciting activities for our students and families. The PTA will be setting up the Book Fair December 4-8, 2023. Teachers will provide the dates and times. The profits of the Book Fair are given directly to each staff member to purchase items from Scholastic for their classrooms. Thank you, PTA!



We are continuing to utilize Class Dojo as our communication system. It is a great way to receive notices on your child's behavior, communicate with the teacher, and receive updates on events that are happening at school. **We currently have 645 parents that are signed up for Dojo!!** That's amazing! If you have not already signed up, please contact your child's teacher. I will be sharing important information through Class Dojo all year!

We look forward to another great month and I want to express how thankful I am for our incredible teaching staff, our hardworking students, and our parents and families for their engagement and support of our school. Please take some time to THANK a teacher or staff member with an email, a note, a kind gesture, or a small treat! It would really bring a smile to their face and let them know that you appreciate all the hard work they do for you children!



I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season! However you may celebrate, I hope you are able to spend time with loved ones and make fabulous memories!



Brooke Wagner

### Calendar Reminders

#### December

*Chess Club (Tuesdays)*

**12/5, 12, 19 3:45 – 4:45**

*Art Club (Wednesdays)*

**12/6, 13 3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

*CAPS After Program (Wednesdays)*

**12/6, 13, 20 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**12/4 – 8 Book Fair**

**12/5 Winter Concert 6:00 p.m.**  
*(Band/Orchestra Only)*

**12/6 PTA Craft Night**

**12/7 Lifetouch Picture Re-Take**

**12/11 PTA Meeting 5P**

**12/22 Virtual Learning Day/**

*Schools Close 3 Hours early for Staff.*

**12/25 – 1/1**

*Winter Break/ Schools Closed*

#### January

**1/2 Welcome Back! Schools Reopen**

**1/9 STEAM Family Night 6P**

**1/11 Team BCPS Day / Wear Blue**

**1/15 MLK Day / Schools Closed**

**1/19 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter/**  
*Schools Close 3 Hours Early*

**1/25 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip to Aquarium**

**1/29 Report Cards Distributed**

#### February

**2/5 – 23 Gr. 5 Chocolate Bar Fundraiser**

**2/9 Professional Development/**  
*Schools Closed for Students*

**2/19 Presidents Day/Schools Closed**

**2/26 Kids Heart Challenge Kickoff**

#### March

**3/19 Literacy Night 6:00 – 7:30P**

**3/22 Gr. 3 Science Center Field Trip**

**3/25 – 4/1**

*Spring Break/Schools Closed*



## Nurse's Corner

A message from Nurse Brittany



Our school has a written policy to assure the safe administration of medication to students during the school day. If your child must have medication of any type, including over-the-counter drugs, given during school hours, you have the following choices:

- 1) You may come to school and give the medication to your child at the appropriate time(s).
- 2) You may obtain a copy of the medication form from the nurse and take the form to your child's doctor and have him/her complete the form by listing the medication(s) needed, dosage, and number of times per day the medication is to be administered. This form must be completed by the physician for both prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The form must be signed by the doctor and by you, the parent or guardian. Prescription medicines must be brought to school in a pharmacy-labeled bottle which contains instructions on how and when the medication is to be given. Over-the-counter drugs must be received in the original container and will be administered according to the doctor's written instructions.

Please know that any unused medications in the Health-Suite will need to be picked up once the student is completed with the prescription or at the end of the school year, and a new order form will need to be completed each year.

If your child requires an inhaler or an epi-pen at home please ask the doctor for a second inhaler or epi-pen to remain in school for the safety of the child, the weather is becoming cooler, and I have noticed more students requiring their inhalers at this time.

Thank you and have a Happy Holiday!!

## School Counselor Corner

A message from Mrs. Jenkins

The school year is moving along quickly, and the holiday season is upon us! Be sure to take extra time to be kind to yourselves- during the holidays we so often think of everyone else and tend to forget about our needs. Sometimes, giving 100% of whatever you're able to give is still doing the best you can!

Counseling lessons for November included discussions about ways to be a better friend including conflict resolution, peer pressure, and personal space. In December, we will be discussing personal safety. Be sure to keep an eye out for lesson materials in your student's take-home folder when I visit their classroom! I hope everyone has a wonderful and easy holiday season!

### Holiday Self-Care Tips



Make space for messy feelings like grief.



Learn to say no without feeling guilty.

Create your own holiday traditions.



Keep your stress levels in check. It's okay to step back or delegate.



Set realistic expectations for yourself and the holiday.



Make a plan and try to stick to it. Organization is key.

Keep your self-care routine or begin a new one.



Give yourself permission to let it be a normal day.



## Important dates to remember:

Dec 6 CRAFT NIGHT / time to be determined.

Dec 11 PTA MEETING 5pm Library

A very special thank you to Mrs. Nellis, Mrs. Placek and Mr. Walker for a successful Turkey Trot! We're already looking forward to next year! Congratulations to all of our Pandas who participated.

Don't forget the book fair is coming! Please email the PTA at [essexpta@gmail.com](mailto:essexpta@gmail.com) for volunteer opportunities!



These are just five fingers, as anyone can see.  
They're five little snowmen, that are a part of me.  
Now every year you can look back and recall when  
I was little, and my hand was just this small.

## Scholastic Book Fair



From our PTA family to your family, we wish you all a very special holiday season and happy new year!



## Winter Word Search

F S N O W M A N Y P V W R U E  
X I U E I L I G O F I A R H T  
U C R C T U O L D N G K L I A  
C S E E G I A Z T S O R F B R  
C N O N P R H E O M H Q C E G  
H M E P B L R W C Y P K M R I  
I P O E E K A L F W O N S N M  
L O A G T O Q C I Z U C P A U  
L R Z A K O C P E I J J D T Z  
Y T H O T C H O C O L A T E J

Find these words:

CHILLY

HIBERNATE

PENQUIN

SNOWMAN

FIREPLACE

HOT CHOCOLATE

POLAR BEAR

WHITE

FROST

MIGRATE

SNOWFLAKE

WINTER



# Staff Emails



Ms. Beach, Gr. 4	<a href="mailto:abeach2@bcps.org">abeach2@bcps.org</a>	Ms. Jones, KG	<a href="mailto:tjones9@bcps.org">tjones9@bcps.org</a>
Ms. Bichell, Gr. 2	<a href="mailto:lbichell@bcps.org">lbichell@bcps.org</a>	Ms. Karolkowski, Gr. 5	<a href="mailto:jkarolkowski2@bcps.org">jkarolkowski2@bcps.org</a>
Ms. Birnbaum, STAT	<a href="mailto:sbirnbaum@bcps.org">sbirnbaum@bcps.org</a>	Ms. Kilic, SLP	<a href="mailto:gkilic@bcps.org">gkilic@bcps.org</a>
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Mr. Gallop, SLP	<a href="mailto:rgallop2@bcps.org">rgallop2@bcps.org</a>	Ms. Neff, Gr. 2	<a href="mailto:eneff@bcps.org">eneff@bcps.org</a>
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Ms. Green, Special Educator	<a href="mailto:kgreen7@bcps.org">kgreen7@bcps.org</a>	Ms. Raut, Title I Coordinator	<a href="mailto:draut@bcps.org">draut@bcps.org</a>
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Ms. Izzi, Admin Secretary	<a href="mailto:dizzi@bcps.org">dizzi@bcps.org</a>	Ms. Wagner, Principal	<a href="mailto:bwagner4@bcps.org">bwagner4@bcps.org</a>
Ms. Jackson, Inst Music	<a href="mailto:ljackson4@bcps.org">ljackson4@bcps.org</a>	Mr. Walker, Phys Ed	<a href="mailto:awalker3@bcps.org">awalker3@bcps.org</a>
Ms. Jenkins, Guidance	<a href="mailto:ajenkins5@bcps.org">ajenkins5@bcps.org</a>	Ms. Wynne, Reading Specialist	<a href="mailto:mwynne@bcps.org">mwynne@bcps.org</a>

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Show responsibility by bringing our charged Chromebook and charger to school each day!



## SCHOOL PHONE NUMBERS

... Don't forget to update our contact information in your phone.

443-809-0117 Office  
443-809-0118 Fax  
443-809-6060 Nurse

