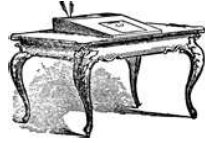


WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Rutherford, New Jersey

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK  
January/February 2012



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy New Year! I trust that the holiday season was peaceful and relaxing for you and your families. As we turn the page on this New Year, we look forward to the next few months with great anticipation. The pace at each grade level has intensified, and the students are stepping up to meet new challenges. Our students and staff are making great strides with the new Math In Focus program. The students are making extensive use of manipulatives, and are learning to use model drawing to become stronger problem-solvers. In Writing Workshop, our focus for January and February is on expository writing. Expository writing seeks to inform, explain, describe, or define the author's subject to the reader. SmartBoard™ technology is being used extensively across the grade levels to enhance classroom instruction and our new Character Education program is in full swing. I hope you enjoy the winter months, and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming school events.

Sincerely,

Bill Mulcahy

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### **Mitten Tree/Giving**

A special thank you to all who contributed to our Mitten Tree drive. We actually had to use *three* trees this year. In all we collected 48 hats, 5 scarves, and 118 pairs of gloves/mittens! These items will be donated to the Rutherford Department of Social Services. Great job Washington School! In addition, thanks to those who contributed food and/or clothing that was sent to needy local families.

### **PTA Happenings**

Thanks to the PTA for the wonderful Holiday Boutique. Our students had a ball shopping for their special gifts. A second Friday Fun Night for our students is scheduled for Friday, February 3. Details will be distributed shortly. The PTA will provide a Valentine's Day ice cream treat for our students on February 14. Our next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend.

### **Assembly Programs**

Our PTA sponsors educational assembly programs throughout the year. During the afternoon on January 13, our students will enjoy a presentation of *Weather Show*, a

production that is part of the Traveling Weather Shows provided by the Franklin Institute. On the morning of February 1, the students will learn about courageous and influential African American women in Mobile Ed Productions presentation of *The Spirit to Overcome*.

### **Child Assault Prevention Project (CAP)**

Once again, our school will be participating in the CAP project. All students in grade one and students in grades two and three who are new to our school this year will participate in workshops in early February designed to raise their level of awareness and protect them from different types of assault. Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 8:00 p.m. (following our PTA meeting) in the art/music room.

### **Multicultural Day**

Multicultural Day is evolving into an annual event at Washington School. This year, a group of enthusiastic parents are planning a day dedicated to the study of India. Plans for a school-wide morning assembly include a video of India, an introduction to yoga, and traditional Indian dance featuring Washington School students. After the assembly, each class will visit a festival in the multipurpose room featuring educational stations where our students will learn about Indian music, clothing, games, food, and culture. The event is planned for January 26.

### **Concert Time**

Our annual vocal music concert featuring all students in grades two and three will be held on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Briggs will send home details shortly.

### **School Closings**

The Rutherford Public Schools will be closed on Monday, January 16 to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. We will also be closed on Friday, February 17 and Monday, February 20 for winter recess. Please take the time to mark these dates on your calendars at home.

### **Contact Information**

Periodically, family contact numbers change. It is important to keep us abreast of these changes so we can maintain an accurate database. Please contact the office if any of your contact information should be updated.

### **Reporting Absences**

In order for us to maintain accurate records and have accountability, it is imperative that parents call the school in advance of a child's absence. Calls for absences should be received in the main office by 8:30 a.m. Messages may be left early in the morning by calling 201-438-7675, extension 5333. Requests for homework must be received by 9:00 a.m. Homework may be picked up between 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.