

# Lincoln School December 2018 Newsletter

**Hard Character Traits:** This month Lincoln School is focusing on the hard character trait- **Creativity**. Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. Creativity is characterized by the ability to perceive the world in new ways, to find hidden patterns, to make connections between seemingly unrelated phenomena, and to generate solutions. Creativity involves two processes: thinking--then producing. If you have ideas, but don't act on them, you are imaginative; but not creative. Parents can help develop creativity by having children use everyday objects in a new way. Empty boxes, paint, crayons, glitter, construction paper, Play-Doh, and glue can offer unlimited possibilities. Parents can encourage children to make cards for the holidays, design their own wrapping paper or develop a new board game. Parents may want to limit passive activities like TV watching and video game play as these activities are received, rather than being generated by our imagination. Creativity can also be expressed by self-selecting clothing, accessories, and room décor (as much as you may not agree with their choices)! Just be creative and have fun.

**Teaching about the Holidays:** In order to teach students about different cultures and traditions, we do recognize holidays celebrated in December like Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa. We also discuss other holidays like Diwali and the Chinese New Year throughout the year. Our first grade students participate in a thematic unit about geography and holidays celebrated around the world and students learn about giving to others through our Mitten Tree. Students also learn about the Festival of Lights and play dreidel. The units of study and school activities will expose children to secular experiences in order to develop an understanding of various cultures and traditions. This year we are thankful the PTA supported an assembly by the Pushcart Players. This play showcases various holidays. It is our goal that children learn to understand various customs and respect differences. This goal is not limited to the month of December, but it is reinforced throughout the year. Our children really have such exposure to different foods, dress, and customs that it enriches our school community.

**The Mitten Tree:** The PTA will once again this year organize a collection of new mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves to be donated to a food pantry from December 3-20. Items will be placed on our Mitten Tree located in the main foyer of the school. Students enjoy bringing their donations and placing them on the tree. Thank you for teaching your children to think of those less fortunate than themselves during this holiday season.

**Holiday Boutique:** The PTA sponsors a Holiday Boutique on December 7th where students can shop for members of their families. Items are reasonably priced. Information will be provided by the PTA. Parents may want to help their child make a list of whom they are shopping for and amount to be spent.

**Report Cards:** Report Cards will be sent home on December 14th. Please use this as an opportunity to celebrate your child's accomplishments, growth, and work habits. Parents may also want to discuss goals for the next trimester. Students should write these goals on a piece of paper and display it in a prominent area. If you have any questions about the report card, please contact your child's teacher. Parents should sign the report card envelope and return it to school by December 21st.

**Second Snack Day:** On December 21st, students will be having a second snack to kick off the winter break. Due to allergies, we ask that parents just provide a second snack for their own child. This may be a cupcake, cookie, fruit, or any other special treat to enjoy in school.

**Phone Numbers/Addresses:** Please spend some time over the holiday recess checking that your child knows his/her address and phone numbers. This important information should be reviewed regularly.

**Recess and the Weather:** Students will go outside for recess most days. Please remember to send your child to school with a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf. Make sure to label all items! We consult the WeatherWatch grid developed under a grant from National Institute of Health. This grid was designed to assist preschools in evaluating the weather suitability for outdoor play. This grid serves as a guide, as other factors are considered.

**School Closing Information:** As we begin the winter season it is helpful to review the information below. Also please take this time to inform the office of any number changes and make sure there are some local emergency contacts available in case of an emergency.

**EARLY DISMISSAL DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:** In the event that a decision is made to close school early prior to the start of the day because of inclement weather, dismissal will be as follows:

- PreK 3 – 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- PreK 4 – 10:30-12:30 p.m.
- Grades 1-3 – 8:30-12:30 p.m.
- No lunch will be provided on early dismissal days.

Please note the YMCA does not run its afternoon program on emergency closing days and students must be picked-up at the end of their day. Morning care is held during its regular times.

**DELAYED OPENING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:** The following procedure will be used for delayed openings:

- PreK 3 students will attend from 11-1 p.m.
- PreK 4 students will attend from 1-3 p.m.
- Grades 1-3 students will attend from 10:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. (Drop off lane at 10:30a.m.)
- No lunch period will be provided.
- Students should bring a large snack.

There is **no before school care**, but the YMCA does have after school care on these days.

### **HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT SCHOOL CLOSINGS, DELAYED OPENINGS, AND EARLY DISMISSALS?**

1. The Connect5 System will be activated. If there is a block on your phone, the call will not go through. (See Below- Connect5)
2. Go to the Rutherford web site – [www.rutherfordschools.org](http://www.rutherfordschools.org)
3. Announcements are made on the radio, station – WCBS-880
4. Announcements are also made on the TV, channel – News 12 NJ

5. Call 201-438-7675. If the schools have a delayed opening or closure, a prerecorded message will come on and state needed information. If there are no changes to the day, the usual message will be heard.

**EMERGENCY – Connect5 Calling System:** As part of the continuing efforts to maintain security in the district schools, the Rutherford School District will use the Connect5 System in cases where schools will be closed for emergency reasons. Connect5 places an automatic call with a recorded message to telephone numbers that have been provided to the school for home contact.

This system will be used in the event of an unanticipated need to close school during the school day or any reason deemed necessary.

If school is closed for the day, the primary contact number will be called either the evening before or early morning. However, if there is an early dismissal or emergency determined once the school day has begun, additional numbers will be contacted.

**Labeling Property:** We have many items in the lost and found in the bins outside the gym. It would be very helpful if you could print your child's name in any clothing, lunchboxes, backpacks, etc. that he/she brings to school. We are then able to promptly return lost property. **Any clothing left in lost and found will be donated on December 20th.**

### **Highlights from On-line Calendar**

**(<http://www.rutherfordschools.org/district/lincoln>):**

- Dec. 3-20: The Mitten Tree collection taking place. Please donate **NEW** children's mittens, gloves, hats and scarves.
- Dec. 7: Holiday Boutique
- Dec. 10: RBOE Meeting @7:30pm in RHS Café
- Dec. 14: Report Cards issued
- Dec. 18: Wear Yellow for Creativity!
- Dec. 20: Lost and Found items donated to charity
- Dec. 21: School Spirit Day: wear your blue & white or Bulldog gear
- Dec. 21: Pushcart Players-A Season of Miracles
- Dec. 21: Second Snack Day: Bring a second snack of your choice today.  
**NO LUNCH**
- Dec. 21: **One session day, PreK 3: 8:30-10:30am, PreK4: 10:30-12:30pm, Gr. 1-3 dismisses at 12:30pm. NO LUNCH SERVED.**
- Dec. 24–  
Jan. 1: **Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL**

**Please enjoy this holiday season with family and friends.**

**Wednesday, January 2, 2019: School Reopens**