

Dear Cunniff Families and Faculty,

I want to begin by bringing your attention to an important change regarding student entrance into the building each morning. This change will be effective beginning tomorrow. This change will not impact students participating in the Breakfast Program or the Early Morning Program. Beginning tomorrow, there will only be three entrances to the building that will be monitored by faculty. These entrances will be the Main Entrance for students in grades 4,5 and Learning Support; the Cove Door for grades 2, 3 and Ms. Breen's first grade; the Path Door for students in PreK, K and grade 1. These doors will be monitored by faculty from 8:05-8:15 and students will be allowed to enter the building upon their arrival beginning at 8:05. Once they enter the building, they will be instructed to proceed to their cubby/locker where they should begin the process of unloading backpacks and taking off boots/coats etc. At 8:15 the bell will ring signaling students to enter classrooms where the school day will begin. It is our hope that teachers will be able to start morning meeting shortly thereafter, thereby capturing as much of the school day as possible. Please help us to reinforce with your child the importance of using the wait time (8:05-8:15) to get ready to enter the classroom by taking care of backpacks and outdoor clothing needs. Thank you for your help with this.

On another note, it has been brought to my attention that the faculty parking lot has become an area of concern during arrival time in the morning. The parking lot is off limits for student drop off during the school day. This area is reserved for faculty, staff and transportation companies escorting students that need access to the building from this area. It is extremely difficult to see young children exiting cars in the parking lot during high traffic times. Please help us keep all students at Cunniff safe by following this important protocol.

Made in the Shade, a Young Audience Performance Group, will be visiting Cunniff on Friday, December 14th. Made in the Shade's focus is titled: Jazz: America's Music from New Orleans to New York. They will host a PreK-2 performance and a 3-5 performance. This enrichment opportunity is being funded by the Cunniff PTO.

The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. It was amazing to see so many PreK- 5 students showing interest in selecting books from a a variety of genres. The Book Fair helps to support the importance of building good reading habits in all students. As we are all aware, building foundational skills in reading supports success in all content areas. Special thanks to Lee Haley and Maria Penaggio-Phillips for organizing this event.

The Cunniff Winter Concert for families will take place on Tuesday, December 18th at 8:35 AM. Concert performers will include third and fourth grade strings, fourth and fifth grade band, second and third grade chorus and fourth and fifth grade chorus. Cunniff students will be attending this concert on Monday, December 16th. The cafeteria is not large enough to include both audiences at one performance.

Our district is joining in on the largest learning event in history "The Hour of Code", during Computer Science Education Week (December 3-9). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code. Our Hour of Code focus is making a statement that Watertown is ready to teach the foundational 21st-century skills. Students will be participating in Hour of Code activities during their library/technology time and in classrooms. For additional details, please visit the following links and help spread the word: <http://hourofcode.com/us>

<https://hourofcode.com/files/hoc-one-pager.pdf>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=nKlu9yen5nc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=nKlu9yen5nc)

There is a Principal's Coffee this coming Friday, December 7th, right after drop off and in the library. Ms. Amy Patel, Cunniff Occupational Therapist, will be my guest. Amy will speak about resources parents and guardians can use to support the following skill areas: fine motor, visual motor, prewriting and sensory play.

We are in need of a lunch aide. If there is a parent/guardian that may be interested in working from 11:00 - 1:00 each day, please email me.

Looking ahead, there is no school from December 24th - January 1st, our winter recess. Students return to school on Wednesday, January 2nd.

Your partnership is greatly appreciated.

With warm regards,

Mena Ciarlone, Cunniff Principal