

Principal's Newsletter

Week of December 9 -13

Dear Cunniff Families,

With only two weeks remaining before the winter break begins, there are a few items that I would like to bring to your attention.

Kindergarten Information Night is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 PM. If you have a child that will be enrolling in Kindergarten, you should attend. A copy of the flyer is attached and a paper copy was sent home to families on Friday.

LifeTouch School Picture Retake Day is Friday. I enjoyed looking through the photos that arrived after the initial photo day and each student looked picture-perfect to me.

Dr. Galdston will visit on Wednesday and will be spending the day traveling to classrooms, visiting with teachers and students. Dede enjoys observing the impact of teaching as it unfolds in each grade level and classroom. Since Dede has such an extensive elementary school background, I always enjoy debriefing with her regarding the good work taking place at Cunniff.

Last week you received an invitation from Dr. Galdston and the Anti-Bias Coalition to attend an [evening event](#) designed to engage parents, educators, students, and community members in courageous conversations around identity and race using Restorative Justice Circles designed and facilitated by WMS and WHS students. Additionally, the Watertown Public Schools will be offering a [community course](#) as an introduction to Kingian Non-Violence titled Conflict Reconciliation. For additional information regarding both of these, please reference Dr. Galdston's letter dated December 4th.

On Wednesday, we are hosting another school-wide STEM day at Cunniff. Ms. Dileso and Mrs. Pimprikar will be working with students as they participate in WeDo Lego (grades 3-5) and BeeBot (Pre-K -2) activities. WeDo Lego sets will be used by students in grades 3-5 to design a lunar rover or helper robot with arm functionality. The BeeBot is an exciting little robot designed for use by young children in grades Pre-K -2. Students will program the BeeBot to navigate the counting bugs, shapes, and life cycle challenges.

I am attaching the Spring MCAS Schedule for students in grades 3-5. As you are aware, students in grades 3-5 will be taking MCAS Tests in Mathematics and English Language Arts. Additionally, fifth grade students will be taking the Science, Technology, and Engineering Test. During the MCAS testing period, we strongly discourage absences due to vacations. Please make every effort to avoid conflicts during this testing period. I thank you for your help with this.

A reminder that there is a PTO meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. School Committee member John Portz will attend.

Looking ahead, the Cunniff Winter Concert for families of students participating in Band, instrumental lessons, or Chorus is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th at 8:30. It will take place in the cafeteria.

Our Winter break takes place from Monday, December 23rd - Wednesday, January 1st. Students return to school on Thursday, January 2nd.

Enjoy this bright, sunny day.

Kind regards,
Mena Ciarlone, Principal



Cunniff- MCAS Schedule, Spring 2020.pdf

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_Kindergarten Information Night 2020.pdf

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