

CHURCHILL SCHOOL NEWS



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Principal
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Living to Learn—Learning to Live

December, 2009

Churchill School
1300 West 190th Street
Homewood, Illinois 60430

A Note From The Principal . . .



Among the many benefits of my job is that I have a bird's eye view of our school from many perspectives. I can see into and visit any classroom at any time. I can observe our students at play on the playground. I can have a conversation with an individual teacher or group of teachers on a regular basis. Whenever I need to talk with a parent or get a parent perspective, I have all of you at my disposal! It is a wonderful thing to be able to observe and gather information from all of these perspectives.

When my girls were little, I used to wish that I could be a fly on the wall and watch them at play or at school without them knowing I was watching. I wanted to peek into a part of their world that I didn't ever get to see. I often feel that way for all of the people I serve in this role. I find myself trying to convey to teachers the appreciation I hear from parents. I try to communicate to parents the joy and excitement that exists in the classrooms and hallways of our school. I wish everyone could see our school from my bird's eye view. If you could, I'm certain you would feel the same sense of pride and gratitude that I experience on a daily basis.

Each day I observe students demonstrating their care and concern for those around them. When a new student enrolls and walks in a classroom mid-year, (s)he is greeted by the warmest of welcomes from the class. At our reward assemblies, our students are truly happy for their classmate's recognition for a job well done. Please, thank you and excuse me are the routine as opposed to the exception in our children's vocabulary. Visitors regularly comment on the impeccable manners and positive behaviors of our student body. As parents, you can be truly proud of the way your children conduct themselves.

Well into our second year of PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), we are tracking data that tells us how our student body is responding to the school-wide expectations for behavior. The goal of the program is to have 80% or more of the student body work successfully with the regular program of behavioral expectations and incentives. For Churchill students so far this year, our figure is above 90%. We couldn't be happier with their progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. Of the many things I am thankful for in my life, the work we do together on behalf of our children is one of the most gratifying. My best to you and your families,

Cece Coffey

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Important Dates to Remember

Monday, December 14	School Board Meeting James Hart Media Center, 6 p.m.
Thursday, December 17	Churchill Holiday Assembly 1:30 p.m. Churchill Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 18	H1N1 Vaccines at Churchill Classroom Winter Parties 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Early Dismissal - 1:45 p.m.
Monday, December 21 through Friday, January 1	No School - Winter Break
Monday, January 4	School Resumes

Churchill Holiday Assembly

On Thursday, December 17th, our Fourth-Grade Choir will perform for the student body at 1:30 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. for families. This is a very exciting event for everyone and we look forward to hearing our choir sing! We do ask, however, that parents and family members attend the evening performance instead of the afternoon performance - if at all possible. With our entire school at the assembly, there is little room for overflow seating for adults. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

REMINDERS

- * **Early Dismissal**
Friday, Dec. 18th, 1:45 p.m.
- * **School is closed on the following days:**
Monday, Dec. 21st— Friday, Jan. 1st
- * **School reopens Monday, Jan. 4th**

Emergency Phone Call System

Please be sure to call the school office should your primary phone number change. This is the number used by our emergency phone system. Without a current number on file, parents may miss out on critical information.

Indoor/Outdoor Recess

Now that winter seems to be here to stay, we may have more than a few days of inclement weather. We have set some guidelines for decision making with regard to indoor or outdoor recess and before-school supervision. Children will **generally** be inside under the following conditions:

- * Air temperature or wind chill below 20 degrees
- * Temperature/wind chill above 20 with wet, heavy falling snow
- * Rain
- * Excessive mud on school grounds

It is important to understand that these are guidelines, not hard and fast rules. There may be a beautiful, sunny winter day with no wind and a temperature of 18 or 19 degrees. It would be a shame to waste the opportunity for a breath of fresh air when we are only a degree or two off of our guideline. When dressing your child in outerwear, be sure to include everything they would need for 10 to 15 minutes outdoors.

If your child needs to stay indoors due to a brief illness, please send a note to his/her teacher. If s(he) needs to stay indoors for more than three days, we will need a physician's note.

Please be sure your child comes to school dressed to play outdoors. Hats, gloves/mittens, boots and snow pants are necessary if children wish to play in the snow.



Box Tops for Education



Happy Holidays Churchill families,

What a great community we live in! It is rich with a wide variety of cultures and with those cultures come seasonal holidays. While these holidays differ in many ways, they all include family meal traditions. These holiday foods provide a great opportunity to look for the Box Tops for Education rectangles on the products we use in their preparation. When planning your holiday menus, please pick dishes that incorporate these items. The products are an asset to your recipe but most important the Box Tops provide funds for our children. Remember, these funds go directly to the students in the form of positive incentives in the classroom.

Churchill also receives funds from online shopping at many stores. Simply log on to www.boxtops4education.com for a complete list of retailers.

Attached please find a collection sheet for December. As always, please carefully label your submissions with both first and last names for prize eligibility. Eleven children submitted Box Tops this month nameless or with only first names included.

Thanks to all families that participate in this great program. Have a happy and safe holiday!

Angie Brandt
Box Tops For Education Coordinator

A Few Reminders

- ✓ **Morning supervision begins at 7:50 a.m. Children should not arrive before this time.**
- ✓ **If your child's transportation arrangements change on any given day, please notify your child's teacher or the office. Without notification from home, our students will be sent home via their normal mode of transportation.**

Box Tops Winners

Gabrielle Palomo - Free Skate Pass at HF Ice Arena
Isabella Loparco-Siensen - Free Skate Pass at HF Ice Arena
Ben Eng - Culvers Treat
Joey McKeigue - Culvers Treat
Alexandria Wilson - Culvers Treat
Tristan Kalas - Culvers Treat
Kahlil Oatis - Culvers Treat
Alison Ruffolo - Culvers Treat
Emily McHale - Culvers Treat
Katie Beverly - Culvers Treat

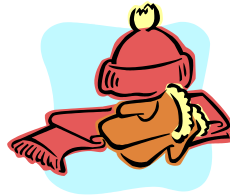
Please Remember!

Students are not allowed to pick up or throw snow!

Phone Calls and Caller ID

Forgotten homework, library book, lunch money—all of these can prompt a child to call home during the school day. The phone system in our district works off of a bank of telephone lines. If a child calls home from the classroom, the phone number that shows up on your Caller ID is not necessarily the direct phone line to that classroom.

Please be aware that a number from "Homewood School" on your Caller ID could be from anywhere in our district. If a child in our school calls home, we encourage him/her to leave a message. **Please check your voicemail before returning the call.** When returning calls, please call the main office at 798-3424. Thanks for your patience and understanding.



Lost and Found!

Please stop by and check our lost and found items before winter break. We have a large collection of unclaimed clothes and outerwear!



EMERGENCY CLOSING CENTER

Emergency school closing information is available on our district website - www.hsd153.org. Information is also available on WGN Radio 720, WBBM Newsradio 78 or any of the local network television stations.



Winter Parties are scheduled for
Friday, December 18th.
Churchill room parties will be held from
12:30—1:30 p.m.