# DANCING PINES MONTESSORI

December 2023

## Important Dates

December 13th:

Holidays around the world

## Winter break: school is closed

December 18th through
January 2nd. Students come
back on <u>January 3rd</u>, <u>normal</u>
<u>schedule</u>.

- Surprise! DPM came up with a project idea for students in lieu of International Day.
  - Choose a holiday celebrated by other countries/cultures in December. Upper El students: guidance for the project will come from Teacher Kris. Lower El students can put together a poster board, or a short presentation to share about their chosen holiday. Food items to share that are typically made and shared during these holidays are encouraged. Please, no nuts. Primary students may join in on this too! Totally optional to participate for the littles, but they will get to watch presentations, and join elementary in the celebration on Wednesday. This will be a student-only event.

## December 13th

We are not doing a winter performance this year for parents, but we will celebrate by joining together and caroling. Videos for parents to view will be posted in the families of DPM FB page and emailed out.
 Student only event to take placealce in the morning of 12/13.



## Reminders



Remember to dress your child in layers. Please send them with base layers, sweater or sweatshirt, and hooded coats. Hats and mittens are great too! Please check to ensure all items are labeled with your child's name.



Packing these items in backpacks if your child does not want to wear it to school helps too. Sometimes they don't realize how cold it really is until they are outside for a while.

We only stay inside for recess if it is absolutely necessary, otherwise, expect your child to be outdoors for a good portion of each day. Between things like sports, barn duty, nature walks, outdoor school, recess, lunch...we spend a lot of time outside! Students should come prepared for all weather.

Please help us stop the spread of cold and flu germs! DPM is limited on substitute teachers, please help us keep other students and staff healthy and here.

### Food Drive Items:

Toiletries Diapers and Formula Office supplies - paper, pens, garbage bags

**Holiday Food:** 

stuffing
mashed potatoes (boxed/packaged)
cranberry sauce
fruit cocktail
stock, broth, gravy
Low sodium soup – condensed and
ready to eat
Low sodium canned vegetables
Canned tomato products
Canned fruit

Canned proteins - tuna, chicken

Ready to eat meals - chili, Chef

Boyardee Canned or bagged beans





A special thanks to all parents who have volunteered in the classroom, making materials, scrapbooking, helping with recess duty, drop-off duty, donating candy for our AWESOME harvest fest, donating snacks and treats, donating food for the food drive...we would not be able to offer our students so many wonderful events and experiences without you all. Thank you!

#### Other fundraising goals we have for this year include:

- Helping teachers upgrade classroom materials.
  - a new science program has been implemented in the lower elementary classroom, and fun projects in upper el, sometimes these things are out of our budget, but we want to give kids some fun and valuable learning experiences. Fundraising can offset some of these surprise lessons.
  - o more computers for students to access to supplement on lessons given (research projects!)
- New play chips for the primary playground, we couldn't swing it last year and would really like to budget getting yearly deliveries of real deal play chips.
- A budget to replace/upgrade bikes, scooters, and balls. These items weather and wear down with the amount of love and use they get here daily.

#### <u>How parents can help:</u>

- Donations of like-new equipment for kiddos, snagging up items on buy nothing groups for us.
- Participate in our Mariners fundraiser this Spring and Summer! Details and info to come.
- If you have a special skill and would like to come teach a class to our students, please let us know! Looking for an art docent, a PE teacher, crafting, etc.
- Are you a member of a congregation? We are looking at venues to rent out for the end of year performance.
- Winter clean-up fix up, we have various to-dos on the farm when the seasons change. Let us know if you're available to come out on a weekend and help tackle some of these!
- Other jobs available for volunteers: routine material making, scrapbooking, recess duty, carline, classroom aide in upper el that can commit to 1x per week, come teach a skill (art, sewing, knitting, ceramics, cooking, baking).