

Churchill



Chatter

December 2019

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Churchill Elementary

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"Churchill Chatter"

"Churchill Chatter" is a monthly publication for all students, parents and staff of Churchill Elementary School.



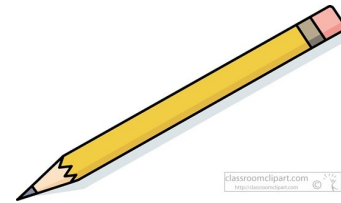
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Principal Notes

Dear Churchill Families:

November was a busy month.



The first trimester is "in the books," and the halfway point of the school year is approaching with Winter Break.

Thanks to our Home & School Association for providing us with the Matt Wilhelm assembly!

Our 5th graders were outstanding during the Veterans Day musical. We are glad that so many veterans were able to attend and let us show how much we appreciate all of them!

Thank you to all parents who attended Parent/Teacher Conferences! We truly appreciate you devoting the time to communicate and collaborate with us about how we can best work with your son or daughter.

I hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving with your families. Our 1st Graders did an amazing job with their Thanksgiving Play! The rooms were very crowded, which is a credit to all parents and grandparents who took the time to attend the performance.

Mr. Piatek, Principal
Churchill Elementary School
630-636-3810, lpiatek@sd308.org

December Dates to Remember

Monday, December 2 – Thursday, December 12 — Winter STAR Testing
Thursday, December 12 — HSA Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm
Friday, December 20 — Holiday Parties 11:30-12:30 pm
Friday, December 20 — Early Dismissal 12:30 pm
Monday, December 23 – Friday, January 3 — Winter Break
Monday, January 6 — School Resumes

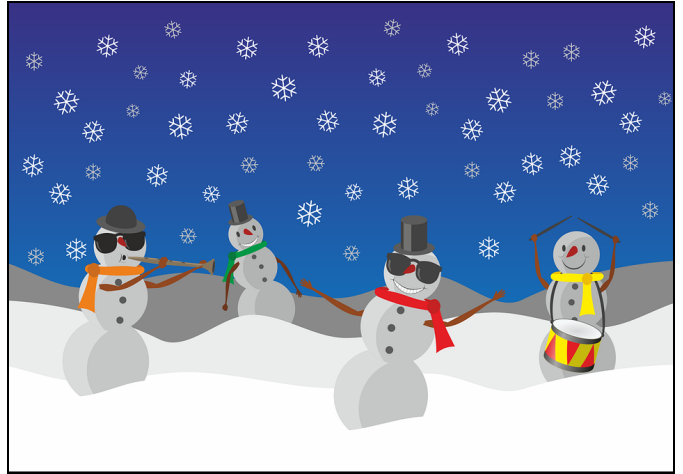


Notes from the Music Room

Well, here we are in December already! The December holidays are here with Hanukkah beginning the evening of Sunday, December 22nd through Monday evening, December 30th, Christmas on December 25th, and the seven days of Kwanzaa beginning on December 26th.

The month of November was very full with our Veterans Day Celebration and Fifth Grade Musical. The 5th graders did a fabulous job on their musical, and we had a great time hosting about 55 veterans and guests for our activities that day. Thank you to

Mr. Piatek, Mrs. Werling, and the Churchill Home & School for planning and facilitating an opportunity for our students to have a special time with their veteran guests before the assembly.



December will be a short but busy month. Each grade level will be working on songs for our Holiday Sing on December 20th. The Holiday Sing is an informal time for our students and staff to get together and learn about the various December holidays and have some fun singing songs about those holidays.

During the month of December, all of the grade levels will continue learning about expressive elements in music such as tempo, dynamics, and instrumentation. We learned new vocabulary to describe the music and analyze the elements that are used in various songs for

various purposes. The vocabulary used for each grade level is as follows and is cumulative as the students progress from Kindergarten through 5th grade:

Kindergarten and first grade — dynamics, tempo, fort (loud), piano (soft), largo (slow, about 50 beats/minute), allegro (fast, about 120 bpm), high and low pitch

Second grade — add fortissimo (very loud) and pianissimo (very soft)

Third grade — add mezzo forte (medium loud) and mezzo piano (medium soft), andante (walking speed about 80 beats per minute) and moderato (medium speed about 105 bpm)

Fourth and fifth grades — add crescendo (get gradually louder) and diminuendo (get gradually softer) They will also review all previous terms and practice using various expressive qualities in performing rhythms and melodies.

The holiday season is a great time to incorporate music into our everyday lives. I encourage you to listen to all different types of music with your children whenever you have the opportunity. Your children will love learning all the holiday songs that you enjoyed when you were their age!

Julie Van Camp, Music Teacher

Art Room Update

Happy Holidays Churchill Families:

K **Kindergarten** students have been creating winter snowmen. Adding their own personal touches and experimenting with oil pastels and watercolors.

1 **1st graders** have been creating wonderful winter theme artworks. In December students will be creating a fancy winter bird house, decorated just like human houses for the winter and holiday season. Students will be using their creativity by adding holiday festive decorations, cold winter touches, and hiding the cute little bird families showing their excitement for the season.

2 **2nd grade** students are getting into the winter spirit by creating eye catching colorful pattern winter pine trees. These vibrant winter trees could light up the dark cold winter nights that lie ahead.

3 **3rd grade** students also celebrated the arrival of winter with creating eye-catching cardinal in winter paintings. These beautiful red birds are accented against the wintry whites and blues of the changing season.

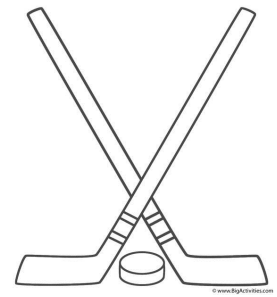
4 **4th grade** is also getting in the winter and holiday spirit through their creations of a holiday winter tree branch adorned with their own ornament creations.

Students created their own pattern and line design ornaments, and adding their own personal touches to make their artwork meaningful.

5 **5th grade** students learned about the natural phenomenon of the northern lights. Students then created their own northern light inspired landscapes, using various techniques with oil pastels and markers to make them look like watercolors.

Heidi Miller, Art Teacher

PE Activities



Thanks for checking in! Over the last month we have been practicing many skills in PE. Kicking off December, the students will be stick handling, passing, and shooting goals during a Floor Hockey Unit.

We practiced our skills with stations and small sided games. Late December will include some chilly winter activities including scooter sledding and snowball throwing. Please remember to have your child bring their PE shoes.

Once back from break we will be working on some B.E.E.F. (Balance, Elbows, Eyes, Follow through) with a basketball unit. Enjoy the break!

Brittany Lindeman (630-636-3857)

Tom Clason (630-636-3848)

PE Teachers

LRC News

Churchill is excited to host children's author and illustrator LUKE FLOWERS! Mr. Flowers is the author and illustrator of the popular Moby Shinobi series about a kid ninja. He is also the illustrator of many other books including Unicorn Day by Diana Murray. He will be

here on Monday, December 9. Students in kindergarten and first grade will have the opportunity to meet him and hear him discuss his writing and drawing process. All students are invited to purchase the books, and have them autographed. The order form, along with a short biography of Mr. Flowers, can be found on our school's website. You may contact Mrs. Caffarello with any questions: scaffarello@sd308.org



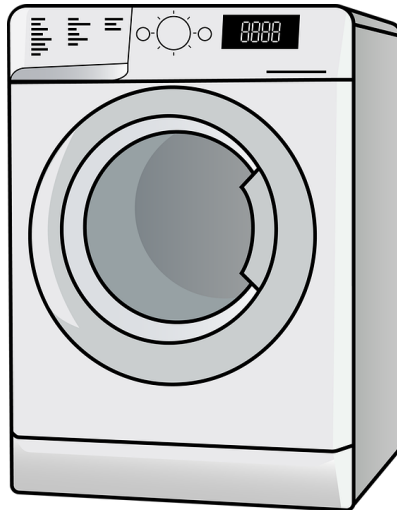
Character Counts!

The month of December celebrates the Character Counts pillar of **CARING!** Students are encouraged to wear the color **RED** on Wednesdays, to show support for the pillar. Churchill students continually demonstrate the pillar of caring both in school and throughout the community. There are many ways to encourage your children to be caring individuals. Some ideas that you can discuss with your children include taking care of your school and community, helping others who are in need, and completing random acts of kindness. Some of the ways Churchill students and staff are practicing the pillar of caring so far this year include participating in service learning projects and collecting items for the SD308 Food Drive.

Heidi Miller, Character Counts!



From the Nurse's Office



Winter break is approaching fast. This is a great time to have students bring home all warm weather gear and have the garments washed and ready for the new year. This is an effective way to reduce bacteria and virus from spreading. The best case scenario is to wash these items every three days to a week, to reduce the transmission rate of infection as we head into the FLU season.

Also, as a reminder students entering 6th grade in 20/21 will need a physical and sports physical if they are going to play a sport, as well as a Meningococcal vaccine on or after their 11th birthday. The physical can be done now until the start of the new school year. Documents can be brought to the school nurse at Churchill anytime before the end of this school year.

Here is a big reminder to the Kindergarten and 2nd grade students: Dental exams are due by **May 15th, 2020**.

Tracey A. Dawson BSN, RN Churchill Building Nurse

