



## HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DECEMBER , 2011

*Dr. Janice Harris*  
*Principal*

### *Principal Notes:*

Happy Holidays to all! December offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the year's accomplishment and make plans for the start of a new year. On **December 21<sup>st</sup>**, you will be receiving your child's 1st term report card for this academic year. There have been some changes to the report card since last year. Information regarding the report card changes is posted online at **[www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org)**, just click on the Curriculum and Instruction link.

Many of us were able to get a jump start on our holiday shopping at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual HES PTO-sponsored "Holiday Marketplace" at the Riverhouse. Many thanks to **Paula Bucko** and **Colleen Totman**, who co-chaired this event. We appreciate all who supported this event and extend thanks to the Bucko family and the staff at the Riverhouse. On the topic of holidays, we also thank Yvette Minervino and Michele Wytas for making our school festive for the season.

Last month, our Veterans Day assembly turned out to be one of the most moving ceremonies we have ever had. I would like to thank Celeste Formica, Jeanmarie Foisie, Betsy Stehr and Cristina Santos for their hard work in making this such a memorable event not only for our veterans, but also for the entire school community. Our student presentations were outstanding! Kudos to the teachers and students for their efforts! Our guest veterans continue to express appreciation for this tribute. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony on Higganum green to memorialize our heroic veterans. The ceremony will take place at approximately 12:30pm. (More information about the Wreaths Across America organization can be found later in this newsletter.)

The HES "Stuff the Cruiser" event will be held on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-10:30a.m. Unwrapped toys and gifts are being collected for distribution by HK Youth and Family Services. Later in this newsletter, you will find a list of suggested items for donation. Students donating to this cause will have a chance to help "stuff the cruiser". Students can bring in items any time during the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>. Parents are also welcomed to join us on the 9<sup>th</sup> with gifts/toys to "Stuff the Cruiser". Thanks in advance for your support! Again, very happy holidays to you and your family!



## Kindergarten News

The hustle and bustle of December is upon us. The Kindergarten students have been taught the letters m, s, r, t, p, c and a. We have added the letters N, and d. We are learning to segment and blend sounds to read and write new words. We have learned the words I, a, like, my, the, am, and at. We have added the words we, go, and, no, and can. In math, we are beginning to work with the numbers six through ten. We will be learning to recognize, write, and make sets for the numbers six through ten. We will begin to discuss needs and wants as part of our socials studies curriculum.

~Mrs. Pommer, Mrs. Raczka, Mrs. Aithal



## First Grade News

November was a busy month and we hope you enjoyed our Mug & Muffin gathering. This month, we will be learning about how different December holidays are observed. In math, we will start working on subtraction facts. Please continue to work with your children on learning their addition facts with automaticity. In reading, we have finished up all the short vowel sounds and will soon be starting our long vowels. Please keep reading at least 20 minutes each night. In science, we will begin to discuss how animals prepare for the winter months. December is a busy month in first grade!

~ Ms. Fagan, Mrs. French, Mrs. Reynolds



## Second Grade News

November was a busy month in second grade both in and out of the classroom. We went on an informative field trip to Bushy Hill Nature Center in Ivoryton where we learned about Native American culture. We also visited and interviewed seniors at the Haddam Senior Center about life when they were children. Those interviews and the photographs taken that day will be placed in a time capsule to celebrate Haddam's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May 2012. December brings exciting learning in social studies about traditions and holidays around the world. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate all we've learned with a Holiday Feast for second graders and their families to share some traditional foods that they enjoy during the holiday season.

~Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Foisie, Mrs. Jones



## Third Grade News

Third graders are working hard in their classrooms. We continue to reinforce daily reading of "just right" books and writing with elaborative details. In math we continue to focus on more complex problem solving, and addition and subtraction with regrouping. We are pleased to announce that we have been invited to observe the wreath laying on the green on December 6<sup>th</sup> for veterans as a continuation of our community unit of study. Permission slips are required for this event. We hope you can join us for a poetry reading in our classrooms on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00pm to culminate our unit on poetry. Information regarding this event will be coming home with students soon. Happy Holidays!

~ Mrs. Leavitt, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Masci



## FOURTH GRADE NEWS

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday! We are so thankful for being able to work each and every day with such eager learners here in the fourth grade! We have implemented a new homework schedule as a way to simplify expectations for all students. A letter was sent home outlining these expectations and our hope is that homework should be more organized and easier for parents to check. (If you have not seen this letter, please let us know!) As a way to help students stay motivated and responsible for their homework, we have started giving out "Homework Alerts" to students who come to school without their completed assignments. We believe this is a helpful tool to promote parent/teacher communication and strengthen the success of each child. Lastly, please ask your child about what they are reading. We are trying to increase our stamina and students have been challenged to read as many books from a variety of genres as they possibly can. The more they read, the better readers they will become!

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

- Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

~ Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Pecoraro, Mr. Davey

## MUSIC NEWS



### Concert Date for Grade 4

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus at HES has been rehearsing for our annual December concert. This year it will be held on Wednesday, **Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in the All Purpose Room here at HES. The "snow date" will be December 15<sup>th</sup>, same time and place. Concert attire is "Sunday Best." **Students should arrive at the music room at 6:15pm.**



## Notes from the Health Office

It is hard to believe December has arrived! Consistently colder weather is fast approaching, and so is the time to consider providing your child with cold weather gear for outdoor recess. Gloves, hats, scarves, and a warm coat or jacket are helpful in keeping the children comfortable so they can enjoy the fresh air outside. Remind your child that these personal clothing items should not be shared with others.

The heat is on indoors, and water bottles remain an important item to send to school daily. Students are allowed to utilize water bottles in class, and hydration is encouraged. In the dry winter months, maintaining good hydration helps minimize headaches, stomach aches, dry lips and skin, and aids in limiting symptoms of the common cold.

State mandated annual health screenings will begin this month for vision and hearing in the health office. If issues are identified that require additional medical follow up or evaluation, a referral letter will be sent home with your child during the week of their testing.

I would like to take this opportunity for an important review of the medication policy. As stated on the RSD17.org website, please remember **any medication, including non-prescription or over the counter medicine including topical creams, MUST be delivered to the school nurse by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult and MUST be accompanied by a written order from a licensed prescriber.** Please do not put your child at risk for a referral for a violation of our drug and alcohol policy. This district wide policy has been instituted for the safety and protection of all the students in our community and is strictly enforced. Take a moment to review the policy and medication authorization form at RSD17.org, and feel free to contact me via telephone or email if I may assist your child in any way in the health office.

Wishing you and your family a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and New Year!

Jennifer Papallo RN

HES School Nurse

## **LOOK** Who is making headlines at HES?



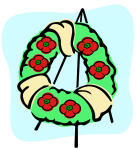
**Hanna Leavitt, Dr. Janice Harris and Nicholas Wypy**

We would like to congratulate Hanna Leavitt and Nicholas Wypy who were recognized by STA (our bus company) for their Bus Safety Poster. The students each won a \$250 field trip voucher for the school!



### **BUCKET FILLERS\*\***

The theme we are focusing on for December is **COMPASSION**. Compassion means showing tenderness and kindness for others. Being a compassionate person is a wonderful character trait to have.



### **Wreaths Across America**

Wreaths Across America is a national organization whose mission, "Remember, Honor, Teach", is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on the second Saturday of December at Arlington National Ceremony. They also lay wreaths across the country at veterans' cemeteries and memorials to honor the Veterans. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Wreaths Across America will be coming to the Higganum Green. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Graders will participate in the laying of a Wreath on the Higganum's Veterans Memorial.

## **Stuff A Cruiser at Haddam Elementary School**

During the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Haddam Elementary School will be collecting **unwrapped** new toys and gifts that will be distributed by Youth and Family Services during the holidays. On December 9<sup>th</sup> Haddam Resident State Trooper James Milardo will be at HES where students will have the opportunity to Stuff-A- Cruiser. Please remember our teens during this holiday season as well as young children. If you need any ideas, please call Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth at 860-345-7498.

**Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc.**

### **Christmas Wish List 2011**

- ❖ Lego sets
- ❖ Pirate Lego sets
- ❖ Science projects
- ❖ Arts & Crafts projects
- ❖ Disney Princesses
- ❖ Dolls
- ❖ Building sets
- ❖ Disney Pixar Cars
- ❖ Trains
- ❖ Train sets
- ❖ Barbie's and/or Barbie clothes
- ❖ Dress up sets
- ❖ NFL toys
- ❖ Wrestling action figures
- ❖ Board games
- ❖ Sports equipment - footballs, basketballs, baseballs, bats
- ❖ Art supplies
- ❖ Remote control vehicles
- ❖ Patriots games or toys
- ❖ DVD's for all ages
- ❖ Music CD's, Pop, Country and children's music
- ❖ Gift cards for teens - Walmart, Bobs Stores, Kohl's, Marshalls, Xbox, Destinta Theater



**When dropping off students please remember to use the crosswalk. Thank you!**

### IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 5 - 9th	Stuff- the -Cruiser
Dec. 6	Grades 3 and 4/ Wreaths Across America
Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert @ 6:30pm
Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Snow Date for 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30am Sing a Long
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Early Dismissal
Dec. 24-30	Holiday Recess
Jan. 2	New years Day Observed
Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Classes Resume

#### **Equal Opportunity Employer**

Regional School District 17 is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Regional School District 17 ensures equal employment opportunities regardless of race, creed, gender, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability. Regional School District 17 has a policy of active recruitment of qualified minority teachers and non-certified employees. Any individual needing assistance in making application for any opening should contact the Department of Human Resources.

**In the event of an evacuation in which students and staff must leave the school premises, we have two locations that we are authorized to use. One is the United Methodist Church next door and the other is the Town Garage. The EMERGENCY LINE TELEPHONE NUMBER is 345-8526.**

