



Seven Hills Charter School Weekly Newsletter

December 18, 2009

Compassion is our Core Value for December.

Save the Date!

Dec. 19 - Gr. 5,6 Basketball Game at City View at 10AM

Dec 20: Gr. 7 and 8 Girls Basketball Game @ Venerini at 3:00 PM, Gr. 7 and 8 Boys Basketball Game @ St. Mary's at 12:30PM

Dec 21, 22: School-wide Intensive

Dec 23: Sounds of the Seasons Concerts: PA @8:30AM, JA @9:40 AM and EA at 10:15 AM

Dec 24-Jan 3: NO SCHOOL

READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ!

Be kind. Be safe. Be responsible.

Dear Families,

I hope you all have a safe and restful school vacation week. Take this time to enjoy the company of your family and friends. Time is precious and your kids grow up so quickly. Savor every moment that you have.

Studies have shown that students need to continue to read and practice school skills over even short school vacations in order to avoid regression. For this reason, please be sure to build in daily opportunities to converse with one another, enjoy stories together and to incorporate basic math skills into your household routines. Take the time to try out some of the website links to the SLC standards. Make learning fun and we'll see you in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Krista Piazza, Superintendent

Health Room Update Many students participated in today's H1N1 clinic. Please be aware that common minor side effects of the flu shot include soreness, redness or swelling around the area where the shot was given, fainting, headaches, muscle aches, fever and nausea. If these problems occur at all, it is usually soon after the shot is administered and the symptoms typically last for one to two days. For students receiving the nasal spray, side effects could include; wheezing, runny nose, sore throat, coughing, muscle aches and fever. Please note students under the age of nine will need to receive a second shot in 4 weeks. The school will be contacting you as soon as additional information is confirmed.

Additional FREE H1N1 Vaccine Clinics are available at Burncoat Senior High, Worcester Technical School, Sullivan Middle School and Forest Grove Middle School from 10-1 tomorrow for children aged six months to eighteen years old and pregnant women.

Honor Roll Policy Seven Hills is committed to recognizing students who demonstrate high levels of academic achievement. Our honor roll policy states that students who receive threes or better in all standards will receive honors, with those receiving fours in at least half of the standards and none below three receiving high honors. When you think about it, that is practically perfection. All threes means that students have mastered every single standard. With a developmental report card, that is even more difficult during the first two terms. So, in an effort to recognize those students who performed well this term, during Model Citizen Assemblies, we awarded students who mastered 80% of the standards an Academic Achievement Award and those who already mastered 90% received Academic Excellence Awards. Although this met the immediate need, the policy itself demands a closer look.

We will be drafting a revised Honor Roll Policy to be presented to the Board of Trustees at their January meeting. Our initial proposal is to use the criteria listed above (80% mastery = honors, 90% mastery = high honors) with the added caveat that they may have no ones. Please let us know what you think about this proposal and feel free to suggest alternatives. Please email Ms. Piazza at kpiazza@sevenhillscharter.org or call 508-799-7500x1122 to share your thoughts.

Science Fair News Kudos to all of the students who submitted qualifying projects for yesterday's Junior Academy Science Fair. Due to the high quality of several of the projects, the judges had some tough decisions to make the top three projects will be entered in the Massachusetts State Science Fair. The winners are: 1st place Luke Okerland, 2nd place Celeste Blodgett, and a tie for 3rd place between Jessica Hernandez-Montez and Maureen Kumano. In addition, fourteen of the participants will have an opportunity to visit UMass for a Doctor for a Day program in January. Congratulations to all of you!

Site Visits Thank you to all kindergarten families who completed the NAEYC surveys. The accreditation team will be reviewing results and conducting a site visit this spring. We'll be happy to share their feedback with all of you as soon as it is received.

The MA Charter School Office will be conducting their site visit on February 9th, 2010. They'll be visiting classrooms, reviewing school documents and interviewing students, staff and families. Please contact Jessica Minor jminor@sevenhillscharter.org if you, or your child, would like to participate in the day's events.

Star Students Congratulations to Jaya Dupere, Kaitlyn Palmer, Terrance Tamakole, Hailey Aucoin, Shawn Yeboah, Ayanna Martinez, Tyra Ofosu, Daniel Mallet, Maggie Duah, Kiara Vega, Cristian Rivera, Courtney Ansong, and Alix Chesnulavich.

Rainbow House News Nothing brings a school together like music! Please join us for our *Sounds of the Seasons* concert coming up on December 23rd at 8:30 AM for PA, 9:40 AM for JA and 10:15 AM for EA.

This week's Rainbow House Star Students were Emily Larkin (PA), Kaitlyn Palmer (EA) and Williemae Dennis (JA). Congratulations to Folashade Ishola for winning the World Language Weekly Challenge.

Beauty and the Beast Call backs are Monday, December 21st from 3-5 pm for those students who have been previously contacted. The cast list will be displayed in the school and posted on the school website on Wednesday by 3pm.

Community Connections Thank you to the SHCPS Show Choir for outstanding performances at the Brierwood Nursing Home and the Masonic Home.

Thank you for sending in your spare change to help with our Pennies for Patients service learning program designed to help people with blood cancer (Leukemia and Lymphoma). We will continue collecting coins until January 5th, 2010. In an ultimate show of compassion, Ms. Cotto's class decided to donate the money they had collected for their class party to Pennies for Patients instead. We are so proud of you. That is what the SHCPS Core Values are all about!

The Worcester Police Department is hosting a "Goods for Guns" day on December 19th from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the Worcester Police Headquarters located at 911 Lincoln Square. Turn in guns in exchange for Wal-Mart gift certificates. Call 774-443-8626 for more details.

School Store Survey

School Store: This is a reminder that the school store is open daily from 2:15pm to 2:55pm. The school store sells lanyards, pencils, pens, index cards, glue stick and bottle, scissors, stickers, mechanical pencils, model clay, chalk, notebooks, protractors, dry-erase markers, book covers, erasers, markers, color pencils, crayons, etc. What else would you like to see?

Your suggestion counts!

- Stress Balls
- Chap Stick
- Hand Lotion
- Hand Sanitizer
- Plastic Wristbands

Other _____