

# Seven Hills Charter Public School

## Save the Date:

- **Dec 16:** JA Black and White Dance 6:30-8:30. Tickets are \$7 at the door
- **Dec 18:** JA Boys BB game at St. Mary's at 3:30pm
- **Dec 19:** All School Multicultural Celebration, Gr. 5-8 Annie Auditions from 4:15-6:15.
- **Dec 22-Jan 3:** NO SCHOOL
- **Jan 8:** JA Boys BB game at St. Mary's 2:30pm
- **Jan 15:** JA Boys BB game at St. Mary's at 3:30
- **Jan 16:** NO SCHOOL, JA Boys BB game at St. Mary's at 12:30
- **Jan 26:** DESE Site Visit



*Be kind.  
Be safe.  
Be responsible.*

Dear Families,

Wow, I can't believe 2011 is coming to a close already. With so many new initiatives at Seven Hills, it has been a busy but productive year. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to partnering with us to *prepare students for success from kindergarten to college, career and beyond!*

Join us next week to bring the year to a close with a celebration of the many cultures represented at Seven Hills. Students will perform songs, poems and dances from all around the world. Come early or stay late to pick up your child's SBA results (grades 4-8) and to get a refresher on Powerschool, Study Island and other great resources you can use at home to continue learning throughout the vacation. Please see the detailed schedule below:

**Grades K-1: 8:30am, Grades 2-3: 10am, Grades 6-8: 1:40pm, Grades 4-5: 3pm**

Our last day of school before the break is December 21st. Seven Hills will resume session on January 4th. Warmest wishes to you all!

Respectfully,

Krista Piazza Superintendent

**Site Visit:** January 26, 2012, is our Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Site Visit. We are looking for students, parents and staff volunteers to serve on our focus groups. Please contact Ms. Minor at 508-799-7500 x1144 if you are interested

**Guidance News:** Each year the state requires school districts to review and revise its Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. Ms. Dirsa is now in the process of revising Seven Hill's Plan. It is available online for all to review. There WILL be revisions made for this academic year. If any staff, student, parent, or member of the Seven Hills community would like to have input into the plan, please e-mail Lisa Dirsa at: [ldirsa@sevenhillscharter.org](mailto:ldirsa@sevenhillscharter.org) as soon as possible. Please take the time to read the plan over and familiarize yourself with the plan and offer any comments or revisions. If you would like to come to the school and meet with her in person, please call x1108.

## Winter Break Challenge!

During winter break, logon to Study Island via the school's website at <http://www.sevensillscharter.org> to participate in the Study Island Winter Break Challenge! There you will find a special "Winter Break" assignment. If you can earn blue ribbons in all the included topics, you will be eligible to receive amazing prizes, including tickets to college events like basketball, hockey, concerts, theater and more! Good luck!

**Early Learning Academy-Ms. Cox:** We are in the end of December and our first grade classes continue their study of World Cultures, Traditions, and Holidays. You may notice the color-themed dress up days on Wednesdays! Next week, students can dress up on Wednesday to celebrate Christmas. We will be doing a film and fiction comparison with Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. How exciting!

We are looking at maps and globes and identifying places of the world that celebrate. Utilizing top-down topic webs to organize main ideas of each tradition. If you celebrate these traditions and would like to come in to show-and-tell, please contact your child's teachers.

Kindergarten classes continue to study Families. What makes a family? We are reading stories about different types of families. We are exploring different ways that families work and celebrate together, especially for winter holidays. If you would like to come in to share your experiences, please contact your child's teacher.

Don't forget about our Winter Celebration Performance! It will be December 19, 2011, at 8:30am in the gym. The performance will be about one hour. We can't wait to see you! Make a great week!

**Primary Academy-Ms. Ambrose:** Poetry comes in many different forms. Poetry is a kind of writing, usually in verse. Poetry verse is set out in short lines with words put together in rhythm or rhyme or both. Poetry is about a writer sharing with the reader an experience or strong feelings. Poems are written with words chosen for their sounds and beauty as well as their meaning. This month, as we focus on poetry, spend time reading poetry to your child and discussing poetic elements.

A 5W poem is a good way to teach children to identify and focus on the five W's of a story or an event. Try writing a 5W poem with your child by following the model below. Write your poem on the lines below and submit it to Ms. Ambrose.

**Example**

Line 1: Who  
Line 2: What  
Line 3: Where  
Line 4: When  
Line 5: Why

*Suzy,  
rode her bicycle,  
to the store,  
after dinner,  
because she wanted to buy some candy.*

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Each month our Model Citizen Celebration recognizes student achievement. Please remember, students must complete homework, class work, and demonstrate the Core Values and Code of Conduct each day to earn a celebration invitation. Let's encourage students to be responsible and to become Model Citizens. This month's Model Citizen Celebration, Winter Wonderland, will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at 2pm.

**Congratulations! Last week's Primary Academy Weekly Question Winner was Adrian Velazquez!**

**Challenge yourself:**

**Did you know that your leg muscles let you take approximately 5 million steps per year!** How many steps do you take during a school day? Think of a way you could estimate the steps you take during the school day and a way to figure out how many actual steps you take. You may be surprised by what you find!

Deliver your estimate and actual answer to Ms. Ambrose. Be sure to include how you found your answer.

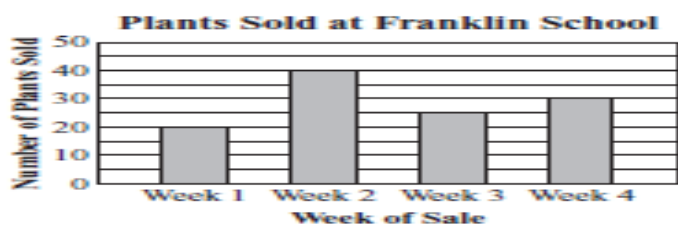
**Primary Academy Weekly Question:**

**Answer the following question, cut it out, and return it to the envelope located outside of Ms. Ambrose's office.**

**Students who correctly answer the weekly question will be entered into a weekly drawing!**



The students at Franklin School had a plant sale. The bar graph below shows the number of plants sold in each week of the sale.



How many plants were sold in Week 3?

- Ⓐ 20
- Ⓑ 25
- Ⓒ 30
- Ⓓ 35

**Elementary Academy-Mrs. Nelson:** As we near winter break, it is a good time to take stock of how our students are doing and look ahead to 2012. There have been many rich learning experiences and consistent opportunities for students to demonstrate what they have learned. Most recently, Elementary Academy students have participated in Standards Based Assessments (SBAs) and we'll be using the results to fine-tune instructional strategies and provide targeted intervention for those students whose scores indicate they need additional support. When you receive the results from the SBAs, please take a few minutes to review them with your child. Look for areas of strength and for areas in which he / she may need extra support in order to meet end-of-year grade level standards.

Effective teaching is a cycle of instruction and assessment that helps teachers and students monitor progress and aids teachers in planning future instruction. One of the best ways for you to support these efforts is to monitor your child's progress through open communication with his / her teachers. Please take advantage of communicating through the daily agenda, phone / e-mail, and conferences.

In whatever way your family celebrates, we wish each of you a safe and relaxing holiday with time for family and friends. We look forward to 2012 and hope that it will be a happy fulfilling year for one and all.

**Junior Academy-Mrs. Wright:** Please be sure to read the letter that went home with your children yesterday, regarding the changes that are occurring in the Junior Academy, in regards to keeping the focus on academics and not on discipline. Your support is needed and appreciated with these matters.

We just finished our second round of SBA's. Please talk to your child about how they feel they did, and what it is that they may need to work on before we take the actual MCAS. Communicating about school and academics with your child is important. Please communicate any information that can be helpful to improving your child's academic success to their teachers. We will use this data to determine what our next steps are as a school to increase achievement levels.

As stated in a previous newsletter, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders elected class officers to be their leaders for the 2011-2012 school year. These students have been meeting weekly and surveying the Junior Academy to find out what the students are thinking and what their needs are at Seven Hills. They are also putting their thinking caps on to raise money for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade end of the year class trip. Some ideas that have been thought of are candy cane messages before the holiday break, flowers for Valentine's Day, and some potential academic challenges/debates are in the works as well. Keep your eyes and ears open for what's to come.

**Word of the Week:** Last week's word of the week was gratitude. The winner and person who best used this word in a sentence was **Kennedy Godwin**. His sentence was: *During Thanksgiving, my entire family sat at the dinner table and we gave gratitude to God for all He has done.* This is the sixth week in a row that Kennedy has won. He needs some competition! I want to see more students participating in the weekly challenge AND writing amazing sentences.



This week's word is **gratification**. Please research the definition and use this word in the most creative sentence possible, and place your responses in the envelope outside my office.

**JA Masquerade Ball is tonight**, from 6:30-8:30. They cost \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door.

**Check it out!** Log on to [ePals.com](http://ePals.com) and you will see our musical message on the front page. We now have 222 views and over 20 uploads, 35 kids in 4th and 5th grade have been assigned penpals from Russia and India. After the New Year, penpals will be assigned to kids from Puerto Rico and Hungary. There are endless possibilities of what we can do with this website. All 4th and 5th graders will be assigned to a penpal by the end of January.