

# Primary School News Update

December 16, 2011

## Polar Express Day

Polar Express Day will be Monday, December 19 for first grade and Tuesday, December 20 for Early Childhood and Kindergarten.



Students will participate in grade level activities related to the story and watch the movie. Students are welcome to wear their pajamas on those days.

## Help Wanted

We are looking for substitute lunch/recess/bus monitors on an as needed basis. For information please contact the Primary office for more information at 847-740-5320.

## Social Work Corner

Parents, it is very important that you are aware of the content in your children's video games. Many video games are safe; however many can be extremely violent and inappropriate for younger children. Please take a moment to examine the list below when shopping for video games.

The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) ratings are designed to provide information about video and computer game content so parents can make informed purchasing decisions. ESRB ratings have two parts: rating symbols suggest age appropriateness for the game (front of the game box) and content descriptors indicate elements in a game that may have triggered a particular rating or concern (back of the game box). For more information, please visit







<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/videogamerevolution/impact/esrb.html>

## Important Dates

- 12/19 1st grade Polar Express Day- wear pajamas
- 12/20 ECH and Kindy Polar Express Day- wear pajamas  
Early Dismissal ECH @2:15 p.m.  
Early Dismissal K-4 @ 2:45 p.m.
- 12/21- Winter Break- No School
- 1/4- School Resumes
- 1/5-1/20- Winter Screening
- 1/6- Spirit/Popcorn Day Bring 25 cents for popcorn
- 1/7- PTO Scrapbook Event 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. @ Middle
- 1/9- PTO Meeting 4 p.m.. @ Primary

Wishing You Happy Holidays  
and a Wonderful  
New Year!



	EC = Early Childhood Titles rated EC – Early Childhood have content that may be suitable for persons ages three and older. Titles in this category contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.
	E = Everyone Titles rated E – Everyone have content that may be suitable for persons ages six and older. Titles in this category may contain minimal violence, some comic mischief and/or mild language.
	T = Teen Titles rated T – Teen have content that may be suitable for persons ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violent content, mild or strong language and/or suggestive themes.
	M = Mature Titles rated M – Mature have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Titles in this category may contain mature sexual themes, more intense violence and/or strong language.
	AO = Adults Only Titles rated AO – Adults Only have content suitable only for adults. Titles in this category may include graphic depictions of sex and/or violence. Adults Only products are not intended for people under the age of 18.
	RP = Rating Pending Titles listed as RP – Rating Pending have been submitted to the ESRB and are awaiting final rating.

## Character Counts

This month our character trait is “Caring”. Congratulations to all our students for collecting 933 items so far for the Grant Township Food Pantry. It was great to see the students so enthusiastic about giving to others.

Assistant Principal Smith read a story Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Jane Dyer to the first grade students during inside recess this week. The book described many of the character traits we teach as part of the Character Education program and describes a families experience as they bake cookies together and shared them with neighbors and friends. This book and the other cookie books in the series can be found at our school library. Winter break is a great time to head to your local library and check out some new books. As promised, below is the sugar cookie recipe in the story that the students were anxious to try at home. Happy Baking!

### **SUGAR COOKIES**

#### INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup softened butter	2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar	1 teaspoon baking powder
2 eggs	1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla	



#### DIRECTIONS

Mix butter and sugar together and beat in the eggs and vanilla. Add flour, baking powder, and salt, and mix until combined. Chill for two hours.

Roll out a small amount of dough at a time, keeping the rest in refrigerator. Place dough on floured board, cover with a sheet of floured wax paper, and roll until 1/8” thick. Dip cookie cutters into flour to prevent sticking and cut dough into desired shapes. Bake at 350°F in a preheated oven for 6-8 minutes until edges are light brown.

Sprinkle with colored sugar.

## From the Computer Lab

If you’re a parent of a first grader, hopefully your child has told you about the exciting things they’ve been doing in the computer lab. Each student has been to Mrs. Cashmore’s website-which can be accessed by clicking through the school’s website- to read a story and play games from the internet. To keep up on skills over the winter break or if your child would like to show you what they’ve done in the lab, these are the steps they’ve practiced to get there:

1. Go to <http://www.bighollow.us/>
2. Click on Big Hollow Primary School
3. Click on “School Directory” in the middle of the Primary home page
4. Click on [Mrs. Cashmore](#)



## From the Health Office

Weather permitting, we try to take the students outside for recess daily. Please be sure your child has the appropriate outdoor clothing during the winter months. Also, please consider keeping an extra set of season appropriate clothing in your child’s cubby in case of accidents, spills, or a mishap with a puddle on the playground.