

# Happy Holidays.



## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:

- 12/19 FP Winter Concert @ Van Wyck MS @ 7:00 pm
- 12/23—1/1/14 HOLIDAY RECESS
- 1/2/14 Classes resume
- 1/14/14—NY BLOOD DRIVE 3-7:30 pm.
- 1/15/14—Snowdate Winter Concert
- 1/6/14—WCS D Spelling Bee Finals—Myers Corners Elementary @ 5:30 pm
- 1/20/14—NO SCHOOL
- 1/23/14—Band Informace @ 7:00 pm APR Grade 5
- 1/29/14—PARP NIGHT/Book Swap—6:30-8:00 pm

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# Fishkill Plains Elementary School

Volume 1 Issue 2

December/January, 2014



## Happy Holidays!

### Message from the Principal -

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe its December already!! With the holiday season in full swing, I'd like to sincerely wish all our families a joyful holiday season along with good health, and happiness in the New Year.

This time of year brings lots of joy and excitement to our house. I have much to be thankful for this time of year. My wife and I are blessed with four children who fill our lives with love, laughter and good times, as well as keeping us plenty busy. The spirit of the holiday season has added an extra sparkle to our kids' eyes already and each year adds more treasured memories for our family.

As we head in to winter weather, please remember you can keep up with **school cancellations, delays or emergency dismissals by pressing 2** when you call school. We will record up-to-the-minute information as soon as we hear from our Superintendent of these occurrences.

Our Winter Recess begins at the conclusion of the day on December 20<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>. We all return on January 2, 2014!

When we return, our January calendar is full of exciting events. At the January 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting, our school will be recognized for winning the New York State PTA Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Award for best program for the 2012-2013 school year.

A special thank you to all our PARP Committee members: Kara Slosower, Debbie Gleeson, Eddy A. Slosower, Amy Cook, Michelle Pineiro, Jessica Morsey, Christine Southard, Pam DiDomizio and Michelle Reese, who worked diligently to prepare projects, contests and literacy nights all related to our theme "Passport to Adventure." Please mark your calendar for the 13<sup>th</sup> and consider attending the Board of Education meeting at 7:30pm at Wappingers Junior High School for this terrific recognition. Our Blood Drive that was canceled due to our snow day on

December 17<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled to Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-7:30 in our APR.

As you may have heard, we kicked off our SLT (School Leadership Team) Improvement Project on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning with our Bucket Filler introduction and reading activity in every classroom. Bucket filling is an easy concept for every student. You can visit the Bucket Fillers website, at [www.bucketfillers101.com](http://www.bucketfillers101.com) for more information.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and safe vacation! Enjoy the time together over this break. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2014!!

Sincerely,

Eric T. Seipp

### Turkey Day at Fishkill Plains!!!!

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, our food service staff, Sokhoro Ros, Debbie Minieri and Marie Bellino served up a traditional Thanksgiving lunch. The students and staff enjoyed roast turkey and gravy, savory bread stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet carrots and for dessert, a fruit ice. Sarah Grove and Morgan Reinertsen both 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Mrs. Bohlinger's class agreed that they "love Mr. Ros' s cooking!" The spirit of Thanksgiving is alive and well at Fishkill Plains.





Erin and Gaelen collected 6,335 pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Great job Erin and Gaelen!!!!!!

Keep up the good work!

Trustworthy Quotes for December:  
 Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships. Steven R. Covey.

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything. Mark Twain  
 A half truth is a whole lie.  
 Author Unknown.



**LITTLE DOCTORS - NY BLOOD DRIVE-GOT BLOOD? Rescheduled to January 14th, 2014**

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Bruno's class!!!

They were able to get the most blood donors for the NY Blood Drive—Little Doctors Program! Please join us on **January 14th** and give blood from 3:00—7:30 pm in the APR. Our 5th graders will be participating in assisting donors as LITTLE DOCTORS throughout the process.

PLEASE JOIN US in this worthwhile cause!!! Walk-ins are welcome! Raffle prizes for donors!!!!

MRS. BRUNO's CLASS WINS for most donations!!!



**Artist in Residency— Paper Marbling**

**Suminagashi**

The development of paper marbling was originally practiced in Japan as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The first forms of Japanese marbling were called Suminagashi, or ink floating on water. To create these images the artist would drop circles of ink onto water. The artist would then carefully draw intricate designs by moving the ink slowly along the water's surface. Paper was then placed on

the water and the ink would magically be transferred to the page. These images originally served to prevent forgery as no two designs were exactly the same. Students created these wonderful designs with the help of our visiting artist, Christina Di Marco.



**Video Conferencing in Kindergarten! "The Gingerbread Boy" Puppetry Show!**

On December, 4, 2013, Mr. K and Mrs. Plambeck's classes are participating in The Gingerbread Boy Distance Learning/ Video conferencing at the Center for Puppetry Arts. In addition to making puppets and a Venn Diagram, students will be listening to four folktales; the Gingerbread Boy, The Fisherman and his wife, The Three Wishes and The Little Red Hen. They will create a bar graph of their favorite folktales.

are participating in another Distance Learning Video conference, Jingle Bells: A live reading by author, Iza Trapani. Each class is assigned a country and must create a backdrop and three facts about how their country celebrates Christmas. Our country is *Italy*. The conference ends with everyone singing jingles bells!

On December 18, 2013, Mr K. and Mrs. Plambeck's classes

### Fishkill Plains Elementary School Anti-Bullying Pledge

This year, after the Pledge of Allegiance, students at Fishkill Plains recite our Anti-Bullying Pledge. It is our hope that students will remember and reflect this pledge as they grow!

Please read below:

I make a commitment to stand up against bullying. I will treat others with

RESPECT and KINDNESS. I will show EMPATHY towards others. I will have the compassion

not to bully and the COURAGE not to be a bystander. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to help others being bullied and to report bullying.

I WILL NOT STAND BY WHEN SOMEONE IS BEING BULLIED.

I WILL STAND UP!

Below are some book selections that support this endeavor:

“Have You Filled a Bucket Today?” by Carol McCloud

“DARE”, by Erin Frankel

“How Full is Your Bucket?” for kids

By Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer



### Fishkill Plains Spelling Bee

This year grades 4 and 5 will be participating in the SCRIBBS Spelling Bee.

On December 2, 2013 we had the finalists from each fourth and fifth grade class compete for the Fishkill Plains Representative.

The winner from our school spelling bee will

move on to the district spelling bee scheduled for January 6, 2014 at Myers Corners Elementary School.

Congratulations to:

Winner:

**Naveen Vridhachalam**

—Mr. McCaffrey’s Class Grade 5

Runner Up—

Jeremy Lugo—

Mrs. Stowell and Mrs. Brothers Class—Grade 5.



“I must respect the opinions of others even if I disagree with them.” ~ Herbert Henry Lehman

### FISHKILL PLAINS SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS—Crazy hair day!!!!

Emma Heckert  
Riley Pineiro  
**CRAZY HAIR DAY**



During the week of December 9-13th the PTA sponsored School Spirit Week!

- Monday—Mix/Match Day
- Tuesday—Sports Team Day
- Wednesday—Pajama Day
- Thursday—Crazy Hair Day
- Friday—School Colors day

The students and staff enjoyed the week!!!





All three kindergarten classes enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving Feast in the Cafeteria!

The tables were decorated with the students art work while enjoying the traditional Thanksgiving Feast of turkey, stuffing, fruit, vegetables and many desserts!

Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast

We are so thankful and grateful!



NEWS from the Library



December 1: Results of the school election to name the panda cub at the National Zoo: **Bao Bao**:

On August 23, a female giant panda cub was born. Internet users had the opportunity to vote for one of five names to be given to her on her 100<sup>th</sup> day: Bao Bao, Ling Hua, Long Yun, Mulan, and Zhen Bao. Third, fourth, and fifth graders voted during Library classes for their choice with results tabulated by class and name choice. Over twice as many students voted for Bao Bao, "the precious treasure." That was also the choice of over 123,000 internet voters at the zoo's website. For more information about the choices and the panda cam, go to <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/>

Make sure you are signed up for School Messenger and Parent Portal!!!

**WELCOME to our new Faculty Members: Dawn Sala, School Psychologist; Nicole Heady, Resource Room; and Bradley Closson, Orchestra and General Music!!!!**

**Welcome Mr. Closson: General Music and Orchestra teacher at Fishkill Plains!**

**Mr. Closson**, was born and raised in Schenectady New York. Mr. Closson is a graduate of the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and played bass with The Jeanine Marie Jazz Quartet in Albany. Last year, he was an orchestra teacher at The High School for Violin and Dance in the Bronx. He is looking forward to being a part of the wonderful staff here in Wappingers!

**WELCOME Mrs. Heady: Resource Room Teacher**

After six years at Myers Corners Elementary, Mrs. Heady has become our new traveling resource room teacher here at Fishkill Plains. We share her with some of the private schools in the area. Mrs. Heady is enjoying her new position and loves working with our students. She strives to create a challenging, yet nurturing learning environment that helps students reach their potential. Mrs. Heady loves to read and spend time with her family when she's not teaching.

**WELCOME Mrs. Sala, School Psychologist!**

Although new to Fishkill Plains, this is actually Mrs. Sala's 15<sup>th</sup> year in the district. She is excited to be a part of the Fishkill Plains community and has enjoyed getting to know the children, faculty and staff. Mrs. Sala loves working with kids and does her best to support and help them in any way she can. In her spare time she enjoys reading, baking, playing games and spending time with family, friends and her dog Coco.







This month Mrs. Lombardi is going to be organizing a fundraising event called, "Pennies for Patients." It is benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. All money raised will help support life-saving research and patient services. The Society is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to finding a cure for blood cancers while improving the lives of patients and their families.

The fundraiser will run for three weeks, beginning January 6th through January 27<sup>th</sup>. The children will collect unwrapped change at home in the boxes provided. **PLEASE count the money at home and write a total on the box.** Then please return the boxes with the money to your child's classroom. The class who collects the most money will be rewarded with a luncheon provided by Olive Garden at school!

Thank you very much for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lombardi

Fishkill Plains SLT Project for the 2013-14 school year is to ASPIRE—teaching kindness, philanthropy and tolerance!

A-Academic  
S-Strong  
P-Pursue  
I-Involve  
R-Responsible  
E-Everyone



Look for more information to follow in the upcoming months!!!!

## Second Grade -

The second Graders at Fishkill Plains Elementary school participated in the Scholastic Reading Club Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. Scholastic is going to match each pair of new pajamas that were donated with a book and give them to children in our area in need. The second graders donated 44 pairs of new pajamas. We are so proud of their selfless act during this time of giving.



**Room 19** is collecting new mittens, gloves, and hats and making a "Classroom Clothesline." The items will be donated to local children in need. We hope to "fill many children's buckets" this holiday season!

