

Friday Notes

November 20, 2009



Dates to remember:

November 23rd – 12pm-1pm - WCS Thanksgiving Feast

November 23rd – 12-1pm – North Wing Thanksgiving Feast at the Fire Station

November 24th – No School - Parent Teacher Conferences

November 25-27th – No School – Thanksgiving Break

REMINDER: NO SCHOOL NEXT WEEK TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH.

Westminster Center School Thanksgiving Feast is Monday, November 23rd, 12pm-1pm please remember to turn in your forms if you are available to help serve or donate a food item. We look forward to celebrating with you!

The North Wing Community Thanksgiving will be on Monday, November 23rd at the Fire Station at noon.

Dear Parents,

Next week we have set aside the day of Tuesday, November 24th for parents to conference with teachers regarding progress and goals. Parents are encouraged to come to the conference with goals in mind- as well as ideas about ways to support learning. It is vital that we confer with every child's parent(s)/guardian. Please be sure to schedule a meeting. If Tuesday does not work for you, teachers are offering alternate dates and times. We can also help with childcare if that is needed.

One of our Action Plan Goals is to improve student achievement in reading and math, and one way we know helps is to increase parent participation. Conferences are just one way you can participate that helps us understand family goals for student learning. Teachers are exploring how we can communicate more effectively throughout the year. In addition to the journals, emails and phone calls, we are looking at mid-semester progress reports and a new schoolwide report card. We have begun using Aimsweb this year to monitor student progress in reading and math - and results of these assessments will be shared with you. This progress monitoring is also part of our response to not making AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). Teachers will share more information with you about these assessments at your conference. All this should facilitate clear understanding of each child's progress toward grade level expectations.

You will find a letter attached to this edition of Friday Notes from Troy McAllister of the Department of Education. The DOE is currently involved in a review of our schools, the services we provide, and your perception of the job we are doing. This is a valuable opportunity for us to hear from parents regarding student support services, as well as other areas of our school. Your participation is appreciated.

The letter has two requests - one is for parents to participate in the focus monitoring through the survey or phone interview process. The second is to allow your child to be interviewed during the DOE visit to our schools. If you do not want your child to participate in the interview, fill out and return the "opt-out" form.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school.

November 30th: 6:30pm @ BFUHS Harlem Rockets Comedy Basketball show

Harlem Rockets Comedy Basketball Show at the High School to benefit the BFMS 8th grade. Mr. Tullar will be playing, so come out and watch the game! Advanced Sale ticket prices: \$8.00/Adult, \$6.00/kids; Tickets purchased at the door \$10.00/adult, \$8.00/kids. Tickets are available at the Bellows Falls Middle school, Village Book Sellers & Cota & Cota.

December 1st – 7:00 pm – Compass School Open House

Sixth grade families interested in Compass should plan on attending to hear more about the program at Compass School - and get a tour.