

# Willow Avenue Kindness Express Newsletter

December 2023



## Cornwall's Character December Trait

### Initiative:

**To do something because it needs to be done and to plan, arrange and implement in an orderly way.**



## Kindness Awards Presented to-

Stella C. -Kindergarten  
Mason H. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Brendan H. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Destaney M. -4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Aidan P. - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Ethan R. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Odin S. - Kindergarten  
Ryan S. - Kindergarten  
AJ T. - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



## Willow Ave – Academics

**Kindergarten** – Mrs. Gandolfini & Mrs. Sweeney – The weather outside is frightful but our learning is so delightful-- We have so many places to GO-- we will learn, we will learn and we will GROW... In Math we will make 10 in many different WAYS And then travel around the world to see how others celebrate their HOLIDAYS.

Comparing stories about Gingerbread characters comes NEXT-- Setting, story and sequence and which one we liked BEST. We will observe, discuss and describe signs of Winter as our new SEASON

We have already learned how animals will survive--just ask us about Hibernation, Migration and Adaptation and we will tell you the REASON.

We will wrap up this month with a day for the GRINCH!!

Lastly, remember during this time of GIVING--

Reading with and to your child is the best gift they are RECEIVING!!

P.S. Please make sure to sign up for a Parent/Teacher Conference (A link was sent out in an email from your child's teacher). We look forward to meeting with you and sharing that time to discuss your wonderful children and their progress in school.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** – Mrs. Berchielli & Mrs. Line - First graders have settled into our daily routines and are really picking up steam with academics! Students are thriving in reading groups, improving fluency, decoding, and comprehension. At Black Rock Forest, students had fun hiking and completing a nature scavenger hunt! Both first grade classes enjoyed hosting veterans as special visitors. Students asked the veterans questions and thanked the veterans for their service. Of course, they enjoyed capping off this event with treats! We also spent time focusing on all the wonderful things we have to be grateful for!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** – Mrs. Byrne & Mrs. Santos Sensational second grade has been working very hard. We now have a deep understanding of place value and can represent numbers in multiple ways. We finished our first science unit, the properties of matter. We have done many experiments and hands- on activities to sort, classify and name objects as solid, liquids, and gasses. Second graders also learned about the election process. We hosted a school wide election and Pajama day won! We are now learning about the different types of communities. Did you know that we live in a suburban community? Ask us about it!

For your  
Calendar

December 14<sup>th</sup> Eve & 15<sup>th</sup> Day  
Parent-Teacher Conf.

December 25-January 1  
Winter Recess

January 15  
MLK Day

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## Willow Avenue – Academics (cont'd)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** – Mrs. Hogan & Miss Mante – Our inquisitive third graders will be going on a field trip to Locust Grove on December 13th. They will participate in inquiries to study forces and motion by measuring distance and force. On the property is Samuel Morse's summer home and the students will also do a house hunt using clues to find artifacts from long ago. They will visit the barn and walk the grounds to see how simple machines can help you work more efficiently. The third graders blew us away as they learned about weather in science. They learned all about weather and climate patterns around the world, and they applied that knowledge to determine the best place to build a structure to host a sporting event. In ELA, we will begin our new unit and will explore pourquoi tales, which explain "why". Afterwards, we will use Book Creator to create books and publish our tales. In Math, we've marched into learning our multiplication facts with the goal of mastering many of them before winter break. So practice those facts on the bus, in the car, and at the dinner table! They are a foundational skill that makes doing math so much easier. The third/fourth grade floor is looking forward to the 3rd annual Winter Wonderland Celebration before our holiday break.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Mrs. Cleaves & Ms. Merante – Sleigh Bells ring, who is listening???? So much excitement in grade 4 as we gear up for the month of December and all it has to offer. The students have recently started a new classroom book that connects to our social studies curriculum. The book is titled The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare. Students continue to work in small reading groups where they can practice the skills that are taught through the whole class books. The native will be the main focus of our social studies unit. They will gain an understanding of how these natives lived in New York. We have also wrapped up our multiplication unit and have moved onto division where they are excited to finally learn long division! Our next science unit will be How Motion Energy Changes in a Collision. Students will be learning how motion energy moves and changes, how speed affects motion energy, what causes moving energy to slow down and finally, they will design bicycle helmets that will teach them the importance of protecting their skulls in a collision. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Please keep your children reading during the holiday break.



## December Birthdays:

12/2: Brayden B. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/4: Galilea B. – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
12/4: Wesley J. - Kindergarten  
12/4: Ceileigh H. – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
12/5: Aurelia L. – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12/5: Andrew M. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/5: Jonathan A. - Kindergarten  
12/6: Shane M. – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
12/8: Nola B. – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12/10: Fionnuala K. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/10: Eamonn K. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/13: Bryce D. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/15: Aria I. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/16: Kaiden C. – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12/19: Savannah R. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/19: Aidan P. – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12/20: Madelyn K. – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
12/22: Sophia H. – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12/22: Emma R. – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
12/22: Declan A. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/22: Colin L. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/26: Gabriel S. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
12/26: Briella Z. – Kindergarten  
12/30: Glenn P. - Kindergarten

## Principal Award Winners

**Subhan A.**

**Henry B.**

**Daniel B.**

**Madeline B.**

**Athena D.**

**Juliana D.**

**Hunter G.**

**Aria I.**

**Aurelia L.**

**Sierra L.**

**Colin L.**

**Owen M.**

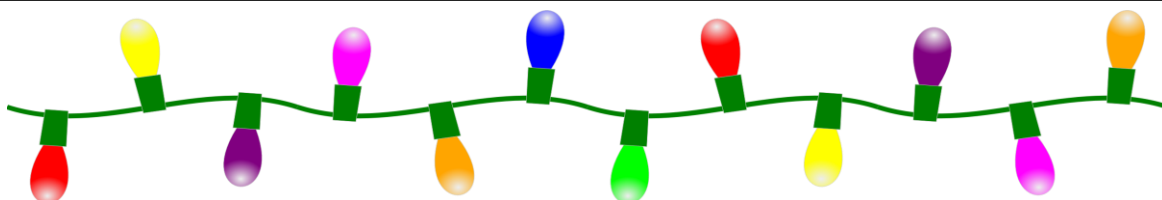
**Julianna M.**

**Harley N.**

**Jenna P.**

**Andreas S.**

**Addison S.**



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## Kids In Motion News from Ms. Nissen Physical Education

We are Jump, Jump, Jumping into December! Jump Rope will be one of our focus units for the month. Students will be practicing individual rope jumping skills, jumping with a partner, and jumping in groups of three. Chinese jump rope is also an exciting part of our jump rope unit.

Dribble, Pass, and Shoot! Basketball is our second major unit for this month. All students will practice ball handling skills with a variety of age-appropriate basketballs.

***Please don't forget SNEAKERS must be worn to participate safely in PE Class.***

As the holidays are approaching, please consider gifting items that will help keep your children active and moving. This will promote a healthy lifestyle, and help them to develop their fine and gross motor skills!

### **Some suggestions are:**

A bouncy ball, hula hoop, jump rope, football, soccer ball, frisbee, scoops, badminton set, bicycle, scooter, cup stacks, balance board, skip-it, baseball set.

**Book Marks from your Librarian Mrs. Ebenhoe:** In this whirlwind month, kindergartners are focusing on author/illustrator, Jan Brett, who has a December 1st birthday. First and second grades are learning the importance of the ABCs in everything from finding books to dictionaries. Third grade classes are using Chromebooks to explore OPALS, our online catalog and online reference sources. Our fourth grade students are familiarizing themselves with various reference sources, both online and print.

Thanks to the families that participated in the Sponsor a Book program. We look forward to adding some new and exciting titles to our library.

Also, with the possibility of delays and snow days, please be sure to keep your child's library book in their backpacks, so they will have them when schedules permit a make-up book exchange. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season...

**Caring Hands News from Nurse -** School physicals are mandated by New York State for Grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and any new entrants. Please submit your student's school physical as soon as possible. Physicals can be brought in to school, faxed to 845-314-5849, or emailed to [kcowart@cornwallschools.com](mailto:kcowart@cornwallschools.com).

**Artful News from Mrs. Butler -** Wow, our school year is flying by! It is hard to believe in just a few short weeks we will be saying goodbye to 2023 and welcoming in a new year! Our artists have been busy this last month- Kindergarten artists learned about Primary and Secondary colors and learned how to create secondary colors by combining two primary colors together. We learned that the primary colors red and yellow make orange, blue and yellow make green, and red and blue make purple. We used all of our beautiful painted papers to create collaged turkeys! Our first grade artists learned a technique using oil pastels to give artwork a tie-dye effect using an eraser to rub through the oil pastels. Second graders finished their complementary color monsters and also created zentangle hand turkeys. Zentangle artwork is work that has different patterns throughout- we made the feathers of our turkeys zentangles. Third graders learned about Pop artist Wayne Thiebaud and have been learning how to draw three dimensional slices of pie. We learned how to shade to make our slices look realistic. We will be completing our pie slices with watercolor colored pencils! Fourth graders learned about Austrian artist Gustav Klimt, specifically studying his "Tree of Life" painting. We are creating plaster sculptures of trees in his style. We also discussed the importance of reusing materials, and used empty glue sticks and cut-up cardboard boxes as the armature for our trees. Looking forward to what other adventures the rest of the school year brings to our art studio!

~Mrs. Butler

## **Counselors Corner from our Social Worker, Kim Zawacki:**

Winter Greetings!

December's Character Trait is Initiative. Initiative means to do something because it needs to be done, or it is the right thing to do, and not having to be asked to do it. Some examples of Initiative are:

- Preparing in advance for a test or school project
- Offering to take on an extra task or chore at school or at home
  - Taking on a new hobby or interest
- Doing something you know is good for you, even if it takes you out of your comfort zone

The holidays are upon us and the hustle and bustle of family gatherings and holiday shopping are well underway. Although this is a joyous time of year, it is also a time that can bring much stress and big emotions. As you go about your daily routines, as you prepare your family dinners and complete your holiday shopping, remember to take time for yourself. Maintain healthy eating, do something enjoyable and find time to rest. This is an important time to reflect on what we are grateful for and to teach and model for our children the deeper meanings of the holidays. The holiday season and cooler weather are here! If your family has a need and could benefit from support for food or winter coats please contact Amy Bishopp at Food Services Department to complete the confidential paperwork ([abishopp@cornwallschools.com](mailto:abishopp@cornwallschools.com))

# Willow Avenue Kindness Express Newsletter

## Stay in the Know with the PTO!

Hope all of our Willow families had a great Thanksgiving with their loved ones. Thank you to everyone who was able to come out for the Dragon Dance Boy's Night. What a fun time it was bringing it back to the 90s. Remember Willow girl's will have their 90s night in March :)

Gingerbread House Making will be on Wednesday December 6th or Thursday December 7th. Please see the flyer that went home with your students to sign up.

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### Occupational with Mrs. Lucia

**Holiday Lists are fresh.**

**How many fidgets will your children get?**

Fidgets are so EXCITING to students at home and school. As the knowledgeable adult(s) our job is to set the rules and boundaries. Fidgets are commonly thought to help individuals tolerate anxiety, frustration, agitation, boredom, and excitement. Individuals with sensory needs also will utilize them as a coping strategy. Below is a poem from Little Links OT to help us communicate the boundaries.

#### **Fidget Rules Poem**

When I can't sit still  
My fidget helps me chill

It doesn't distract me  
Or my friends around me

I do not throw, swing or hit  
I can hold, squeeze or rub it

My body stays quiet  
And my fidget stays private

My eyes stay straight ahead  
Not on my fidget instead

When I can't sit still  
My fidget helps me chill



Megan Lucia OTR/L



## DECEMBER SPEECH NEWSLETTER

MRS. JENNINGS



EXPRESSIVE

### Winter Vocabulary:

- Traditions
- Frigid
- Blizzard
- Celebrations
- Joy

Winter is a great time of year to encourage reading.

Start a new routine of reading with your child before bed every evening. Allow your child the ability to pick out the book, read it out loud together, take turns reading or read it to them. Ask questions along the way, such as, **Where** did the story take place? **Who** is the main character? **What** is the story trying to tell us? Ask them if they liked the story or not and **why**? Have them to tell you back the story in their own words.



ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO  
ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION  
AT GATHERINGS (FOCUS ON  
TURN TAKING, MAINTAINING  
TOPIC  
& LESS INTERRUPTIONS)

RECEPTIVE

SOCIAL