

Happy New Year!

It was so nice to come back to school and hear the students' excitement as they shared about their holiday break. We hope that you all had time to relax and enjoy time together.

As we reflect on December, it is heartwarming to think about how Village School gave back to their community. In a whole school assembly, we talked about having compassion for others and helping each other and the community. The students worked hard before break to gather items for the Animal Refuge League, Camp Sunshine and Meals on Wheels. We are so proud of all the students and their dedication to the community.

Also, we would like to thank all of the families who participated in our Bingo Night, Parent Forums (1-2-3 Magic) and our Parent Feedback Night. Please look for details of our upcoming events, which will include another Parent Forum, a night with Superintendent Ted Sharp and members of the Gorham School Committee, and our special STEM Night. We are always appreciative of having time with Village School families.

Now that winter has definitely set in, please help your child to remember to dress warmly and to wear snow pants and boots if they want to play in the snow. As you know, it is important for students to have time outside with their friends to play and run around, so we do send them out if weather permits.

As we approach our half -year mark, we would like to invite you to give us feedback to guide our work. Village School is "our" school and we want continuing feedback to help make our community grow to give our students and families the best possible learning experience. To this end, please visit our website under the parent feedback tab, to fill out a very brief survey that we will use to reflect and set future goals.

Lastly, we would like to thank you all for working hard to support your children with getting to school each and every day. As a school, we have cut our absences by 50 percent from 2012. Please keep looking on our website for helpful attendance tips and know that we are always here to support you if you need help or have questions. Research shows that students with regular attendance have better grades and are less likely to drop out, and these habits of good attendance start at a very early age.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Fondly,

Jodi Mezzanotte and Brian Porter