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**\*\* BIG SKY GLOBAL FUNDRAISER \*\***



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular school attendance  
is the key to success.

Tardies and absences will  
greatly affect your child's  
ability to achieve at grade  
level and a good rule of  
thumb to remember is

"The key is only 3."

As a family, we encourage  
you to commit to no more  
than 3 absences or tardies  
per trimester.

## Why Children Need Your Presence and Not Your Presents

This holiday season, rather than spending money on gifts, spend TIME! It is no secret that children love new toys. They love Christmas and birthdays because of the multitude of gifts they receive. However, the most important gift any child could receive is the continual presence of parents in his or her life. As a parent, giving your time, energy and love to your child is one of the most important things you can do. Here are a few reasons why presence is more important in your child's life than the latest and greatest present. Children need your example: Home is the place where children learn basic skills such as how to speak, walk, use the toilet, hold a fork, manners, etc. Children learn these skills from watching others. Parents set an example to children. If a child sees a parent performing a certain task, the child feels it is also OK to do it. When you are present in your child's life, you help shape your child into the person you know he or she can become. Children look up to you their entire lives and your actions speak much louder than any amount of money. Show your children, by your example and your actions, that you want what is best for them. Children need your physical touch: When children fall and hurt themselves, or they are sick, there is nothing like a kiss from their mom or a snuggle from their dad. Physical touch is a powerful thing.



We know that the traffic flow at Big Sky during peak times can be frustrating. We ask for your patience and diligence to keep our kids safe. When you drop your kids off, please be aware of bus lanes, handicap parking, and the driveways & mailbox areas of our school neighbors.

At our morning drop off area just south of the playground, please pull forward as far as possible, make sure kiddos are ready to hop out quickly, and have children exit on the passenger side of your vehicle if possible. Do not allow children to exit vehicles by the short black fencing at the entrance of the drop off area. If we all work together, we can help the traffic flow and keep our kids safe. Thank you!!

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Take the time to snuggle your children, let them sit on your lap while you read them stories and give them hugs before bed each night, etc. Involvement helps build a child's self-esteem: When you are involved in your child's life, you help him or her gain confidence and build self-esteem. When parents make it a priority to attend a child's choir concert or basketball game or even make sure homework is complete, it brings feelings of security and love to a child. This is important to a child's mental health. When these feelings do not exist, the child is more likely to be insecure and have feelings of low self-esteem.

A strong relationship builds a child's communication skills. When parents are present in a child's life, they spend more time talking to the child. Whereas, when a child is just given a gift, they are usually by themselves for an extended period of time. Communication with parents is essential for establishing critical skills. Vocabulary, grammar and even basic socializing skills can all be learned through constant communication between a child and a parent.

At first, presents may seem like a great way to win your child's love but they will never take the place of being present. Children grow up too quickly. Don't let their childhood slip by without being involved and letting your actions show your child how much you care.

- Excerpts of this article originally written by Family Share website, 2015



## ~ Holiday Music Programs ~

Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 p.m. ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band & Orchestra Concert

Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 a.m. ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Program

Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program

Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 a.m. ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Music Program

Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Music Program

Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 p.m. ~ Kindergarten Music Program



Christmas Break from Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday January 1<sup>st</sup>

School is back in session on Wednesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>

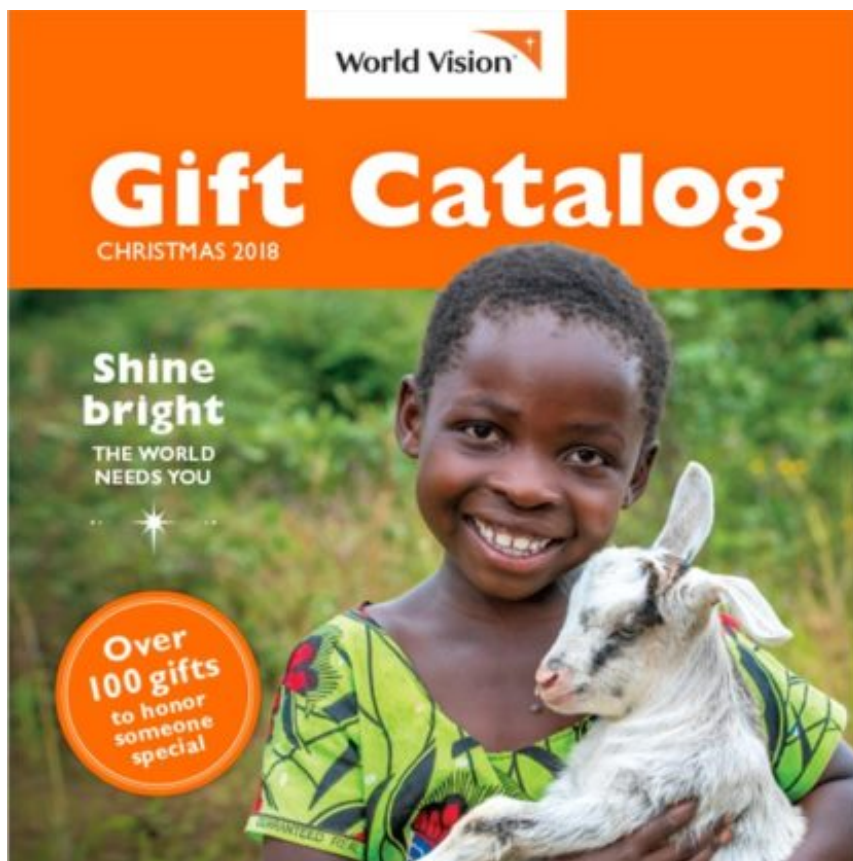
Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!!!

## BIG SKY SCHOOL-WIDE GLOBAL OUTREACH

As we enter into the Christmas season, we are presented with a unique opportunity to help our students turn their focus outward and look for ways to help those who are less fortunate in the world around us. Big Sky Elementary has traditionally done a number of civic collections or fundraisers in the past, all which have benefitted our community. We'd like to expand our efforts a bit this year and offer our students the opportunity to experience first-hand the joy of giving, while at the same time, understand just how fortunate we are.

Some of you may be familiar with a new trend in charitable giving via "Gift Catalogs". Several charitable groups have now assembled these catalogs each year as ways to give tangible/meaningful gifts to children and families living in poverty or conditions.

These meaningful gifts are things that most of us take for granted each day; clean water, food, clothing, medical care, education, etc. We looked at several options and agreed on using World Vision's Gift Catalog.



Beginning Monday December 3rd and running through Friday December 14th, each classroom will be collecting money for their class to purchase gifts out of the Gift Catalog. Students can bring in coins or cash to contribute to the class total. At the end of the 2-week period, each class will total up the money they collected and agree upon the "gifts" they would like to purchase from the classroom catalog.

There will also be an element of competition with their efforts by awarding the grade-level that raises the most money with a party of some sort. We will let the kids help decide what type of prize they want to work toward.

**HELP BIG SKY MAKE A GLOBAL DIFFERENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**