



Cherry Avenue Buzz

Principal's Message

Dear Cherry Avenue Families:

We hope you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and extended weekend. And we also wish you a happy Hanukkah and a very merry Christmas. We certainly have a lot to be grateful for at Cherry Avenue. Thank you to the parents for sharing your children with us and for all your support. We are also grateful to our PTA for all they do for the students, their families, and staff.

We provided 7 families with food for Thanksgiving, thanks to your support and care. We truly appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness during the holiday season. The West Sayville Fire Department provided support to one family, as well. The Giving Tree will be up and running during Parent/Teacher Conferences for any families interested in taking a tag to support our families in need. All gifts must be received on or before December 17.

During November, students and their guests attended a breakfast honoring our veterans. Ms. Teufel, as always, did a phenomenal job hosting this brunch. Our veterans felt loved, respected, and recognized, as they always should! We also thank Ms. Woerner for adding a beautiful patriotic touch to the morning and to Ms. Calia for her hard work behind the scenes. PTA, thank you for creating our very own Hall for Heroes; we loved seeing the beautiful photos of our service men and women.

Our very first Multicultural Festival was a huge success! PTA, thank you for helping us in recruiting families to host tables. Ms. Devore, thank you for your instrumental role, as well. Your partnership was invaluable. The following families were gracious enough to share their cultures with us during the evening event: Ms. Judy Duer (grandmother), The Sessa-Adames Family, The Kleinhans Family, The Abdallah Family, The Exline Family, The Rowland Family, The Devore Family, The Martin Family, The Lathrop Family, and Ms. Kristen Duer for hosting an art and crafts table. Dr. Ihne, along with Ms. Teufel, Ms. Feramisco, Ms. Falco, and Dr. Cantley, hosted a table, as well. A great time was had by all and we look forward to next year's event!

Please remember that Cherry Avenue will dismiss at 11:10 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, Friday, December 6, and Wednesday, December 11 to allow for K-5 parent/teacher conferences. UPK will run under normal hours. Please note that on those days, New Life and LEAP WILL NOT accept students. However, SCOPE will be in session.

***Parent/Teacher conferences for UPK only will take place on February 10 and February 11 (both days dismissing at 11:30 a.m.). K-5 have regular school hours on both these days.**

With the PTA Holiday Boutique event around the corner, as well as all types of shopping events (book fair, plant sale, etc.), we always want to support the decisions of each and every family. If you do not want your child(ren) shopping at any of these events, it is imperative that this information is shared with classroom teachers. From time to time students forget money and they shop regardless, putting things aside until they bring in money the next day. We want to avoid this from happening if any family is not favor of this approach.

December 2024

Dates to Remember in December

P/T Conferences— 11:10 a.m. dismissal for K-5 only	5, 6, 11
K-5 Evening Parent/ Teacher Conferences and Giving Tree @ 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	5
PTA Holiday Kick- Off Dance @ 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.	6
First trimester ends	6
SEPTA Holiday Breakfast @ 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.— SMS	7
CA Winter Chorus & 5th-Grade Band Concert @ 7:00 p.m. —SMS	9
Family Connect Night	10
PTA Board & Event Chair Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.	11
BoE Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.	12
PTA Holiday Boutique	12 & 13
Report cards avail- able on Portal	13
PTA Holiday Spirit Week	16- 20
Giving Tree gifts due	17
Winter Recess	23- Jan. 5

(OVER)

As cold weather is upon us, outdoor recess will continue to take place whenever possible. On those days, students will be going out regardless of dress. Please encourage your child(ren) to dress appropriately for winter conditions. If the wind chill (real feel) is 15 degrees or higher and weather permitting, outdoor recess will take place.

I have included one article from the December 2024 edition of *Parents make the difference!* about effective praise.

Too Much Praise Can Negatively Affect Students' Motivation

Students who receive too much of the wrong kind of praise from their families may develop traits such as vanity, selfishness and self-centeredness. Experts note that unearned praise also has a negative impact on students' motivation.

While it's important for you to encourage your child, it's also important to make sure praise is:

- Detailed. Highlight behaviors you want your child to repeat. "You studied every day for your test and earned a higher grade than your last one!"
- Honest. You want your child to be able to trust what you say. Rather than saying, "You're the best piano player ever!" try, "You are making progress in playing smoothly!"
- Focused on effort. Support your child's efforts to try new things. Put special emphasis on things your child works hard to do, even if they aren't a big deal to others. Perseverance is something to acknowledge and reward!
- Meaningful. Save compliments for times when your child really deserves them.

Source: E. Brummelman and others, "Origins of narcissism in children," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

CA Shout-Outs

Kindergarten Teacher, Ms. Jenna Reda, joined our CA family this year, coming to us with 11 years of teaching experience. When not at CA, you will find Ms. Reda enjoying time at home with her husband and 4-year-old daughter. Hobbies include: reading and making things on her Cricut Machine. A fun fact : she has been skydiving three times! Ms. Reda loves teaching kindergarten at CA and we are thrilled to have her on our team!



On behalf of the entire staff, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season! And of course, a wonderful, peaceful 2025, too!

Sincerely,

Lisa Ihne, Ed.D.
Principal

