

# DECEMBER

## A Message from Shelly

To Our Best Families Ever,

As the principal of this amazing school, I am perpetually inspired by the vibrant energy and sense of community that fills our halls. Our school is truly a special place because of the incredible partnership in and among our amazing Warriors, our dedicated and caring staff, and you—the most amazing families any school could hope to have.

Every day I get to witness moments of kindness, resilience, and growth that remind me of why we do what we do. Our kids are not just learners; they are leaders, dreamers, and difference makers. Their enthusiasm and determination fuel our shared mission to nurture a love of learning and a sense of belonging in every child.

I am equally grateful for our phenomenal staff, whose tireless dedication, compassion, and creativity ensure that every student feels seen, valued, and supported. Our commitment goes far beyond academics—we believe in every child’s ability to do great things!

As we enter the final month of 2024, I stand in awe of the support, involvement and unconditional love we receive from you, our FTE Families. Whether it’s attending events, volunteering, or simply cheering your children on from home, your partnership means everything to us. Together, we create a strong foundation where our kids can thrive.

As we continue with the holiday season, I’m filled with gratitude for each of you. This time of year reminds us of the importance of connection and the joy that comes from giving and sharing with others. May you find moments to celebrate the season with loved ones, reflect on the blessings of the past year, and look forward with hope and excitement to what lies ahead for you in 2025. And, if there are things you think we can be doing better as a school team, please reach out. If we don’t know, we can’t grow.

Thank you for being such a necessary part of this wonderful community. From our school family to yours, we wish you a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and love.



## Notes from Our Nurse:

Everyday preventive actions can help you fight colds, the flu, and other illnesses to keep your family healthy and safe this holiday season. National Handwashing Awareness Week coincides with National Influenza Vaccination Week, the first week of December. If you have not yet had the flu shot, it is never too late - the season can last until May. Other preventive actions include:

- Return to school after being fever free for 24 hours **without medication**
- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Breaking the cycle of infection by washing your hands

We love having your children in school, but please be mindful of sending them when not feeling well to prevent spread of the illness any further. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth as germs are spread easily this way.

Vision and hearing screenings will be starting shortly and when a grade is completed notes will be sent home if your child needs further evaluation. This should continue through spring but if you have concerns about your child’s vision or hearing, please feel free to contact me. Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season!

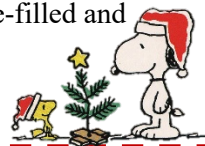
~ Ms. Mead



## Counselor’s Corner:

Continuing in the vein of resilience, the next factor that predisposes children to respond well in the face of adversity is: **building a sense of self-efficacy and perceived control.** Self-efficacy is one’s belief in their own ability to face challenges. This belief can be strengthened in children by allowing them to face failure and coaching them to “fail forward”, a phrase John C. Maxwell coined to describe the acceptance that failure and persistence are necessary features of the path to success. We can also help grow our children’s self-efficacy by praising effort, as opposed to ability, and by assisting them to regularly and intentionally accomplish short-term goals. Regarding perceived control, Suzanne [Kobasa](#) found that, “Resilient people spend their time and energy focusing on situations and events that they have control over. Because they put their efforts where they can have the most impact, they feel empowered and confident. Those who spend time worrying about uncontrollable events can often feel lost, helpless, and powerless to take action.” Allow your children as much choice as possible at age-appropriate levels, to show responsibility for their choices, and to stay focused on what is in their “[sphere of control](#)”. One thing that is in our sphere of control is being grateful and focusing on what we *have* instead of what we don’t. I wish you gratitude-filled and happy holidays!

Be well,  
~ Mr. Hogg



## Dates to Remember

- December 13** Early Dismissal; 12:00pm
- December 19** 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Concert 7:00pm; GAMS
- December 23-January 1** No School; Winter Holiday
- January 2** School Resumes
- January 9** PTO Meeting @ FTE; 5:30pm

## GASD Family Navigator News

It's December already! We know this can be an exciting and joyful time, but for some, can be an equally difficult time. Please reach out with anything you need and we will do what we can to support you as best as we are able. We will continue being out in the community and we encourage parents and families to stop by and say hello, ask any questions about school or community resources/services, or express student concerns. We look forward to connecting with you at one of the times listed below:

**December 6** - 11:00am-1:00pm @ Waldo's

**December 10** - 10:00am-12:00pm @ Dunkin' Donuts

**December 20** - 9:30am-11:30 @ Adams County Library (basement)



As mentioned, sometimes the holidays can bring hardships. We encourage you to join us at a co-sponsored event with our school district and Healthy Adams County; an evening dedicated to inspiring hope and healing. The event will be on December 12th from 5:45 until you feel it's time to go. We will meet at the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church - 208 Baltimore St, Gettysburg, PA 17325 and take a group walk around the square. See this [invitation](#) for additional information.

Additionally, please consider applying for our district's Free and Reduced Meals Program. Even if you are unsure if you qualify, we encourage the application. Follow this link and reach out if you have any questions!

<https://www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us/services/food-services/about-food-services>

## Spotlight in Education: Chorus, Band & Orchestra



We are so proud of the progress that our **band, orchestra, and chorus** students have made. In band and orchestra lessons, we are learning new notes on the instruments and how to read music. We will continue to prepare for our upcoming concerts at the Gettysburg Area Middle School.

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert** – December 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

**Band and Orchestra Concert** - January 23<sup>rd</sup> Orchestra 6:00pm, Band 6:35pm.

We look forward to celebrating the students' hard work and enjoying a music-filled evening with you all! ~ Music Team



### FTE's Staff Favorite Things

Every year many of our families ask for ideas for what to get our teachers/staff. This is especially true during the holiday season. To make it easier for you, we're sharing our individual lists of favorite things that we update every year (link below).

**Please note that nobody ever expects anything; we're sharing these lists based solely on parent feedback.**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OvHyIvE9Ryx7eveZwhVjIWyxF3Dr\\_841?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OvHyIvE9Ryx7eveZwhVjIWyxF3Dr_841?usp=sharing)

### You're invited to get plugged into FTE's PTO

Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please note our new start time for our PTO meetings is **5:30pm**. Our meetings last one hour and provide a great opportunity for us to hear from our families. We would love to have you join us and offer your ideas.

## December 2024 – 12 Days of FTE FUN, along with some ACTS of KINDNESS 😊

We will participate in our traditional 12 Days of FTE. Starting on **Thursday, December 5** and ending on **Friday, December 20**, we will have different themes assigned to each day. Specific details are included below. (Note: **ONLY HOLIDAY hats are permitted to be worn each day with the exception of Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>**.)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5 Let's Kick-Off our <b>12 Days of FTE</b> with... <b>GASD/FTE School Spirit AND your favorite HOLIDAY HAT</b>  Kindness – Write a kind note to someone	6 <b>Your Choice 😊</b> <b>WEAR ANYTHING FESTIVE</b> Kindness – Hold the door for someone
9 Dress as an <b>Elf</b> and/or <b>Green &amp; Red</b>  Kindness – Express Gratitude	10 <b>Favorite Sports Team &amp; Favorite Hat</b> (doesn't have to be holiday)  Kindness – Give someone a Compliment	11 <b>Candy Cane</b> (red/white) OR <b>Christmas Colors</b>  Kindness – Share your smile	12 Warrior Way T-Shirt or <b>School Spirit/Favorite Holiday Hat</b>  Kindness – Tell someone you care about them	13 <b>Favorite PJ's Day OR I AM OR GASD School Spirit Shirt</b> Kindness – Offer someone a hug or a high five
16 <b>Craziest Holiday Outfit</b>  Kindness – Tell someone a joke to make them laugh	17 Favorite <b>Festive Shirt</b> OR Favorite <b>Holiday Movie Shirt</b>  Kindness – Express Gratitude	18 <b>Holiday Cheer/Tree Topper</b> Holiday shirt, hat, scarf, socks, antlers, leggings, ties...  Kindness – Ask someone how they're doing	19 Channel your inner <b>holiday lumberjack Flannel</b>  Kindness – Offer to help someone	20 Awesome/Ugly <b>Holiday Sweater</b>  Kindness – Pick up trash off the floor