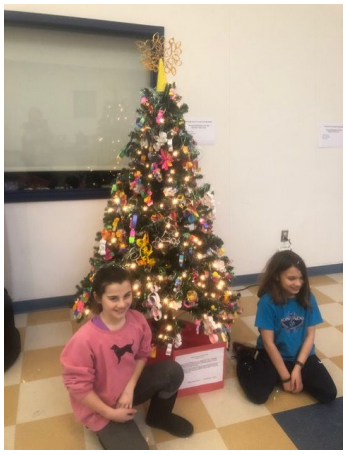
MIS Family Update--12.03.2018

Important Notice - We will have pickup in the cafeteria at McAlister Intermediate School on Tuesday, December 4th, for this one day only. Thank you for your cooperation.



Suffield Holiday Tree Gala: Both Spaulding and McAlister students decorated trees that have been donated to the town's Holiday Tree Gala--sponsored by the Suffield Garden Club. This new event, held at the Suffield Senior Center, runs through December 15th, daily from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Our McAlister students created the ornaments and together Ms. Sostazk, Seth Healy, Katie Michael, Mrs. Healy, and Mrs. Michael worked to set up McAlister's tree. Come and see all of the beautiful trees!

Problem Solving Mean and Unkind Behavior at MIS: Last Friday, students at McAlister met in mixed grade level groups to build community across grade levels. Each classroom teacher hosted a small group of third-, fourth- and fifth grade students and facilitated a schoolwide lesson on problem solving mean and unkind behaviors. Members of the 5th Grade Student Council created skits that were videotaped and shared within each classroom. Student Council then facilitated a conversation revolving around each of the 3 skits with the help of the classroom teacher. The skits focused on being the recipient of unkind behavior, being the person who is displaying the unkind behavior, and the bystander---all important perspectives and roles. The assembly closed when the students and staff came together as a community in the auditorium and were all reminded how important it is to show The McAlister Way.

In addition to this assembly, last week all students listened to the story "Mr. Peabody's Apples" by Madonna during their PLC. *Mr. Peabody is the beloved elementary school teacher and baseball coach, who works to silence gossip with an unforgettable and poignant lesson about how we must choose our words carefully to avoid causing harm to others.* As a follow up this week, our Social Skills lesson continues the focus on gossip. Students will listen to the story "Trouble Talk" by Trudy Ludwig and participate in a lesson where toothpaste is used to represent our words and how it is very difficult to take back our words after we say them (just like it is difficult to put the toothpaste back into a tube after it is squeezed out). We thank Dr. Kirschbaum for donating toothpaste tubes for this important lesson :) Take a look at some pictures from the in class lessons and whole school assembly!

Parent Teacher Conferences--Parents from both AWS and MIS are setting up Parent Teacher Conferences via Pickatime.com. Conferences are scheduled for December 5th, 6th and 7th, with early dismissal at 1:10 p.m on all three days. Be sure to sign up for your conference by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday--as pickatime.com closes at that time.

Lost and Found at McAlister--This week during Parent Teacher conferences, be sure to check out the tables in the front hallway full of your children's lost coats, jackets, mittens, etc.! The tables are overflowing--any items left after 12/15/2018 will be donated.

Fifth Grade Ping Pong Tournament--Parents of fifth graders should be on the lookout for a notice coming out about the upcoming Ping Pong Tournament in January! Registration is due by 12/21, and only the first 40 student/parent or family member teams will be accepted!

Dressing for Colder Weather---Be sure that your child wears warm layers to school each day as we go outside for recess as long as the 'feels like' temperature is 20 degrees or above at recess time.

Pajama Day--Both AWS and MIS are also holding a PJ day on Friday, December 14th as part of the *8th Annual PJ Day For The Kids* in support of kids at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The students and staff are invited to wear PJs in support of the many children spending days/weeks/months in PJs while in the hospital. An optional donation of $1.00 or more can be made for wearing PJs on this day.

Attendance: We continue to communicate with families relative to the importance of daily and on time student attendance, as chronic absenteeism (defined as being absent for 10% or more of the days in school thus far) has a detrimental effect on student learning. McAlister's attendance group meets monthly to communicate with families and brainstorm strategies for reducing the number of students absent, tardy, or who leave school early.

Holiday Classroom Celebrations--If you have signed up to bring in special treats for your child's classroom holiday celebration, first of all, thank you! Be sure that the treats align to our district's Wellness Policy that was updated last summer. Specifically, remember that due to the unknown nutritional content and ingredients of home baked items, all treats brought into the classrooms must include ingredient labels.

Fourth Grade Science in the MakerSpace--Mrs. Whitlock brought one of her science classes to the MakerSpace to complete a collaborative learning demonstration on ecosystems! Take a look at the fun and learning :)

Important Upcoming Dates at McAlister :)

12/1 through 12/15--Suffield Holiday Tree Gala
Fri., 12/14--Pajama Day Fundraiser
Wed., 12/19--Winter Concert (snow date 12/20)

- Grade 3--Soloists' Prelude 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.. and Choral Performance 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.
- Grade 4--Soloists' Prelude 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and Choral Performance 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.
- Grade 5--Soloists' Prelude 1:45 to 2:15 p.m.. and Choral Performance 2:15 to 3:00 p.m.

Mon., 12/24 through Tuesday, 1/1--Winter Break