February 14, 2018

Dear Spaulding Families,

Happy Valentine's Day!

Yesterday our second graders performed their winter concert for their families.
The ***Be A Friend Concert*** was a great success. The students did a wonderful job, and the audiences loved the performances. Congratulations Second Graders!

We celebrated our **100th day of school** last week! It's hard to believe we're that far into the 2017-2018 school year. I love being a part of the Suffield learning community, and the principal of A.Ward Spaulding School. I'm looking forward to the next 100 days!

Now that we've had some warmer temps and some rain, snow pants may not be necessary, but boots still come in handy. We have some muddy spots on our field so I would ask that boots come in even when snow gear isn't needed. Otherwise when it's muddy kids without boots will need to stay on the blacktop and that's not as much fun.

Souper-Bowl Update:

Our **Souper Bowl food drive was a huge success**. Spaulding children donated over 500 items. Our school community voted heavily for the Patriots with a total of 406 to 98 but our prediction was wrong. Congratulations to the Philadelphia Eagles and to all our students who showed kindness to our Suffield community with our generous donations to the Emergency Aid.

I came across an interesting article on technology use for 3-5 year olds and thought many of you might enjoy viewing it. I've included a few of the tips below. I've noted the URL at the end of the excerpt in case you want to read the rest of the article.

"Uncharted Territory: 10 Technology Tips for PreSchool Parents
By Laurel Bongiorno, Ph.D

Parents today are making decisions about technology that didn't even exist when they were young. Parents make creative decisions daily using their best instincts. Here are 10 tips that might help when making technology decisions for your child.

1. Use technology for communication.
FaceTime or Skype with Grandma. Read a bedtime story together from afar. Email family and friends so children can know and communicate with extended family.
2. Model using technology as a tool.
Take photos with your smartphone or iPad. Watch a short video of a volcano erupting, if your child shows an interest. Use the calculator to add. Use the magnifying app to examine nature. Listen to music on an iPod. Use the online dictionary to spell or find the meaning of words. Technology is an everyday tool.
3. Be involved.
Resist the temptation to routinely use technology as a babysitter, and instead use it as a way to connect with your child. If you are reading a book on an e-reader, read together. Write emails together. Play games together. Look at science video clips together. Engage together."

National Association for the Education of Young Children
https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/technology-tips-for-preschool-parents

Reminder of Drop-off procedures

During our drop off time parents are encouraged to use our drop off circle. Staff is readily available to monitor students exiting cars and entering the building safely. If a student arrives after 8:35 they need to check in at our foyer, escorted by an adult. Parents do not need to escort students to their classrooms. Please be aware our duty clerks carefully monitor that students reach their classrooms after signing into the building tardy. Thank you for assisting use with these procedures which take the safety and security of all students into consideration.

Miscellaneous:

· We are still collecting plastic grocery bags for a local family who is making sleeping mats for the homeless. Send in those plastic grocery bags. Thank you!

· Students have been busy taking STAR Reading and Math assessments. We'll continue testing for the remainder of this week and may have some makeups next week.

Upcoming Events:

- **Friday, February 16th - Early Release**
- **Monday, February 19th and Tuesday, February 20th - No School**
- **Friday, February 23rd - PTO sponsored Grade Two Traditions Event**
  Wednesday, February 28th - Kindergarten Information Night

Stay healthy!

Roxanne and Kris

Dr. Roxanne Pangallo, Principal
Kris Pryce, Assistant Principal