

University Elementary December Newsletter



LET'S FINISH STRONG

Can you believe that we are only a couple short weeks from Winter Break?! Just this week, I have heard many phrases from students and teachers when walking the hallways.

"I can't believe the semester is almost over!"

"Doesn't it feel like we just started school yesterday?"

"There is so much that we have learned, but we have so much more to accomplish these next few weeks."

This semester has gone quickly and we do have a lot that we would like to accomplish in our classrooms these next two weeks. Your children have done a wonderful job this year and have already grown so much, academically, socially, and emotionally. Personally, I like to look back on the growth we have all made, not only this semester, but in the past week. Our teachers are locked in to what they are doing and that is translating to your children.

It could be easy to coast into Winter Break, but we don't do that here at University School! Talk with your children at home and remind them to keep their eyes focused and their minds sharp these next two weeks. I am confident that we will end this semester strong.

~ Glen Hopkins
Principal



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec. 7: Bloomington Scholastic Chess Tournament @ UES
- Dec. 9-13: Computer Science Week
- Dec. 10: UES Choir Concert @ 6:00
- Dec. 10: PTO Meeting @ 6:30
- Dec. 10: MCCS Evening of Code @ 6:00 @ BHSN and BHSS
- Dec. 12: Elementary Band Concert @ BHSN @ 7:00
- Dec. 17: PTO Skate Night @ 6:30
- Dec. 19: MCCSC Parent Talk - Student Accounts and Access @ 3:00 @ CoLab
- Dec. 19: End of Second Grading Period
- Dec. 20-Jan. 5: Winter Break
- Jan. 6: School Resumes

Winter Break

Winter Break will run from Friday, December 20th-Sunday, January 5th. If we were to have a Snow Day sometime these next two weeks, we will have school on Friday, December 20th to make up that date.

Looking ahead in the forecast, it doesn't look like that will happen, but we are living in Indiana....



Lost and Found

It's that time of year - the University Lost and Found is starting to multiply! Please encourage your children to look over the Lost and Found, located in the cafeteria, when they can. We will bundle up all unclaimed items on December 19th for donation to a local agency.



Spirit Days

Many classrooms/grade levels will be participating in some University Spirit Days during the week of December 16th-19th. Please see your child's classroom communication for specific details.



December Lifeline and Learner Profile

For the month of December, we will focus on the Lifeline of "Respect" and the Learner Profile of "Principled."

- **RESPECT.** We keep an open mind to appreciate and respect others' cultures, beliefs, and traditions.
- **PRINCIPLED.** We do the right thing, even when nobody is watching. We take responsibility for our words and actions.

Each month, teachers will nominate students from their classrooms that model these traits. Students will have their pictures taken and placed on the large bulletin board outside the gym where we hope to have a collage of our students by the end of the year.

Ultimately, all of our Lifelines fall under the umbrella of the Lifelong Guidelines, "*Do the Right Thing*" and "*Treat People Right*."

MCCSC Recess Weather Policy

Please be mindful of "Indiana" weather. Sending your child with layers, coats, hats, gloves, etc. are wise as we will go outside for recess per MCCSC policy. If the temperature is between 18-20 degrees or warmer, with windchill, we will go outside, while taking into account the sunshine.

In addition to this, please remind your children to pick their coats, hats, gloves, etc. up when they are coming in. In a school of 600 kids, these materials can accumulate quickly. Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria.

Classroom Snacks

University Elementary has a variety of health restrictions in our classrooms. For this reason, it is important that we are following MCCSC's Wellness Policy which states that "no food shall be served in classrooms that is prepared in a private home unless it is specifically connected to the curriculum." This does not include lunches you are preparing for your children. Basically, if you are bringing in food for snacks or parties, be sure that they are store bought. As always, please be in communication with your child's teacher about additional dietary restrictions in their classroom.

Equity Spotlight Award

Last month, I introduced the MCCSC Equity Spotlight Award in the newsletter. We had two of our 6th grade students win the award for their work during Hispanic Heritage Month! Congratulations to these students.



This award recognizes students, faculty, staff members, community partners, and student organizations for their commitment to an equitable and inclusive learning environment that is reflective of our corporation mission, vision, and core values. Anyone within our MCCSC community may [submit a nomination](#) at any time.

Choir and Band Performances



Our UES Choir will hold their December concert in the cafeteria on Tuesday, December 10th beginning at 6:00.

Our MCCSC Elementary Bands will be playing in the Bloomington North High School Auditorium on Thursday, December 12th beginning at 7:00.



Exact Path and NWEA

Students in grades 3-6 in MCCSC take either Exact Path or NWEA. 6th grade took these assessments prior to Thanksgiving Break and 3-5 students are ramping up for them now. Please see communication from your child's teacher about specific dates that they plan to test.

Please access this [link to Parent FAQ](#) about Exact Path, provided by MCCSC.

PTO Meeting

We have moved our PTO meeting start time to 6:30 on Tuesday, December 10th to accommodate the UES Choir Concert. Please plan accordingly. Representatives from the Indiana Collation for Public Education will be present to share about how they work (you can read more here - www.keepeducationpublic.org) and the MCCSC referendum.



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