

Dear Parents,

December is well under way and the holidays are upon us. We are experiencing cold temperatures, a little bit of snow and disappearing daylight. Each year before we leave for the holiday break I like to take a pause to reflect on the progress and happenings at Julian Curtiss School.

Walt Disney once said *'You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality'*. The learning and exploring happening this school year could not take place without the commitment and support from the staff, parents, and students.

Our School Data Team and Instructional Data Teams are delving deep into the School Improvement Plan that focuses on math instruction. Progress has been made in the first three months of school. We are reading the research, implementing the strategies and reflecting on our teaching practices as well as the achievement of our students. We are committed to small group instruction, conferring for personalized learning and physical space that supports this model. Please check back to our Julian Curtiss website by Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> to view the presentation given by Assistant Principal, Mrs. Brenda Brush, Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Sandra Grandinetti, and First Grade Teacher Mrs. Madeleine Hannah last Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to develop and adjust our instructional strategies in all curriculum areas. Our partnership with Teacher's College continues to support teachers, administrators, and school change agents with professional development, curriculum, and instructional methods. The philosophy includes turning children into readers and writers through an emphasis on high success, high interest reading.

Our newly elected Student Council met for the first time this month and we will work together and collaborate on promoting the positive voices of all our students. They will learn leadership skills, decision-making skills and the importance of effective communication. They will represent their fellow students and find new ways to make a difference at our school!

The Julian Curtiss Service Club led by Mr. Ken O'Brien, PE Teacher, and Heather Stewart, 5th grade Teacher, are just completing the collection of food and warm accessories for Neighbor to Neighbor that distributes these goods directly to families in our own community. It stresses the need to help others less fortunate than us. Thank you for participating in this community event! Please check the Lost and Found at the beginning of this week. There are many jackets and coats that will be sent to Neighbor to Neighbor if they are not claimed. Pick up is on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Holiday Winter Concert! Such a joy and the art of singing and creating music promote peace and tranquility! Performing for others is truly a gift! Add to this the generous gift of the art club that came together to create beautiful banners for the event and you have the fully decorated package.

Our teachers and our staff work hard on a daily basis to send positive messages and promote good citizenship with respect and tolerance for all members of our society! We appreciate the partnership of our families in achieving these goals.

As we wind down this year, we want to again thank you for all that you do to make Julian Curtiss such a very special place. We are grateful that our daily work allows us to witness the learning and achievement of our students every day. The laughter, the hugs and the smiles are pure joy! Thank you for giving us the gift of your children.

For this holiday season we wish you all safety, warmth, health and the love of family and friends! **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> is an early release day (12:45 pm) and we will see the students back at school on Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Warmest regards,

Mrs. Trish McGuire  
and the Julian Curtiss Staff

