

## Parent Resource Newsletter

### December...A Giving Month



Designate a "giving month" (week or day) as a time for children to give to others. With your guidance, depending on your child's age, you can brainstorm, plan, and carry out giving activities. For example:

- **Children can give** of their time and company, allowance, gently-worn and outgrown clothing (coats, boots), food, prayers, cards, letters, books, homemade and commercial CD's, artwork...
- **They can share a song ...**Recite and practice holiday songs together, then go caroling. You might take your child to a community nursing home or to a shut-in neighbor.
- They can help others. Help your child **think of services they could provide** for others. At home, they might dry the dishes each night for a week, dust, or help sort the laundry. For neighbors, they can shovel snow, take out trash to the curb, or pickup mail and newspapers. Children can present these "gifts" in the form of coupons to family members or neighbors.
- **And whom can they give to?** They can give to the less fortunate, a friend, soldiers, aged, soup kitchens and shelters, a children's home, classmate at school, or another school... Remind children of the people who help them all year long. Ask *What can we do for the school secretary? cafeteria workers? custodian? Bus driver? Pastor?* Your child might like to present a poem, school painting or booklets of their drawings to these helpers.



### Thinking about Giving

Read to your children *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. Encourage your children to think about giving. Then help your child make their own "giving trees." Create or provide pre-printed templates of a tree trunk on brown paper and a tree crown on green paper for your child to cut out. Next, invite your child to write (or you can record their words for them) a few lines about something they will do for their family all year long, such as putting away toys or helping with a pet. Have them place their words onto the tree template. Your children can present their tree as a special gift to the family.

### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO Helping Your Child Succeed in School

#### Teaching Thankfulness and Practicing Writing at the Same Time

Writing thank-you notes is a great activity to do with your child. You have the opportunity to spend some time together encouraging writing, and your child will learn an important etiquette skill that will serve him or her for a lifetime. Get creative. Make it fun! **Here are some general tips:**

- Explain that receiving thank-you notes makes people feel good. It is a special way to let Nana or Grandpa know that the gift arrived safely and is appreciated.
- The sooner the better! Get those notes written as soon as possible. But don't be embarrassed by a note sent a bit late. It's far better to send a late note than no note at all.
- Spend a few minutes talking about the gift and what made it special: *"It's a book you loved reading. You've already made three projects with the art kit. The toy is so much fun to play with. You had a great time shopping with your friends and found the perfect sweater with the gift card"*.
- Have fun materials on hand to get your child interested in the project: colorful notepaper, markers, fun pens, stickers and stamps.
- If you have a camera, take a picture of your child and the gift. Include the photo with the thank-you note.

Remember to keep it fun! If you view this as drudgery, so will the kids.

#### Did You Know ?

##### Christmas Traditions

A sprig of *Mistletoe* hung over a doorway during Christmas remains one of the season's most beloved traditions. Mistletoe is a symbol for peace and joy. The idea originated in the ancient times of the Druids: whenever enemies met under the mistletoe in the forest, they had to lay down their arms and observe a truce until the next day. From this comes the custom of hanging a ball of mistletoe from the ceiling and exchanging kisses under it as a sign of friendship and goodwill.

In the 18th Century, the exchanging of kisses between a man and a woman was adopted as a promise to marry. At Christmas a young lady standing under a ball of mistletoe cannot refuse to be kissed. The kiss could mean deep romance, lasting friendship and goodwill.

The holiday season is not complete without the familiar festive sight of mistletoe.



## TITLE I NEWS

### A Note from Title I

Our Winter break is around the corner and so is the Christmas season and holidays. We are just about halfway through with another school year. It is hard to believe!!!

Learning continues here at Kent City Schools and in the Title I program. Our students have been working extremely hard on their reading and math skills. We are so proud of them. At this time of year we always remember how lucky we are here at Kent Schools. We remember how fortunate we are to have extra educational alternatives such as Title I. We are fortunate to have great students and talented teachers. We are also fortunate to have incredible parents who support our work and help in many different ways. Thanks to all the wonderful parents who are helping their children succeed!!!

We hope everyone has a wonderful and relaxing Winter Break. The Title I staff from each of our elementary schools would like to wish you and your family best wishes for success and happiness in the New Year.



### School News

Our last day of school is Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. School will be closed from Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and resume again on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. During this winter break we hope your child keeps up with his/her reading. Remember just **20 minutes a day reading aloud** with young children strengthens relationships, encourages listening and language skills, promotes attention and curiosity, and establishes a strong reading foundation. These skills are essential for success in school and in life. Have fun this holiday season and keep reading!

### Site Review

#### Resources available for Parents and Families:

Website for learning and fun—for kids and parents together-- This month's website to visit is:

**Wonderopolis®.** *Create. Laugh. Imagine. Explore. Learn. Smile.*

**Grow.** This website is a place where wonder and learning are nurtured through the power of discovery, creativity and imagination.

Wonderopolis is brought to life by the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL). It engages and inspires families in the pursuit of education and learning together.

Wonderopolis offers educational answers and background to a daily question. The information is provided via a video and article. Daily questions run the gamut from the inquisitive "Why is it called 'Big Ben'?" to the whimsical "Do sea cows moo?" The *Wonders of the Day* help you find learning moments in everyday life, ones that fit in with dinner preparations, carpool responsibilities, a stolen moment between breakfast and the bus, or within school curriculum and education programs. Check it out: <http://wonderopolis.org/>

## Kids' Corner - Family Activity

### Santa's Here

Make these cute cookies during the holiday break.

1. Have children cut out heart-shaped cookies from store-bought sugar cookie dough and bake cookies according to package directions.
2. When cookies are cool, turn the heart shapes upside down.
3. Use canned white frosting to cover the two lower rounded parts of the heart. Top the frosting with shredded coconut or candy sprinkles to create Santa's beard.
4. Fashion Santa's hat by using red tube icing to fill in a triangle-shaped area that comprises about the top third of the cookie (including the pointed area at the top of the cookie, which was the bottom of the heart before you turned the cookie upside down).
5. Trim that triangle with more frosting and sprinkles.
6. Add two chocolate chips for eyes.
7. Use a dot of red icing just above the beard to make a nose.



To give as a gift, carefully place completed cookies into individual sandwich bags.

Copy this rhyme onto squares of paper and tie with yarn through a hole in the sandwich bag:

*This Santa heart holds something dear  
All my love throughout the year.*

### Here are the 2011-2012 Title I Contacts for our Title Program at Your School:

#### Consultant, Mrs. Jeanie Hiestand:

Davey School (330-676-7462)  
Walls School (330-676-8300)

#### Consultant, Mrs. Katrina Kelling:

Holden School (330-676-8433)  
Longcoy School (330-676-8350)

#### Principal, Todd Poole:

Franklin School (330-676-8450)

#### Parent Involvement Coordinator,

Ms. Pam Bose: All Schools (330-676-7425)

#### Federal Grants Coordinator, Mrs. Lori

Slattery, Director of Instructional Program:  
All Schools (330-676-7600)



Parents  
plus  
Schools  
equals  
Success