



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

December News

Student safety is a priority at DP Morris Elementary. The front parking lot will be closed in the mornings. All student drop-offs in cars will be in the back of the building. Teachers are available to help your child out of the car and they can walk safely into the building for breakfast, computer time, Homework Club. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep your children safe!

DP Morris profited **\$4,094.91** after a total gross amount of \$10, 237.27 from the Big Kahuna Fundraiser this year! All money will be used for student field trips, instruction and classroom materials. Thank you for supporting our school.

Please make sure you check your student's folders for information on Tuesdays. There is important information concerning your child's progress and important notes about school events in your child's folder each week.



Save the Date!

- December 7th – Toys for Tots 5:00-10:30pm at the MISD Center for Performing Arts
- December 7th – Urban Air Field Trip 10:00-12:30pm
- December 8th – Progress Reports go Home
- December 9th – Pep Rally
- December 12th – Ft. Worth Museum of Science & History – Kindergarten
- December 13th – Family Literacy Night 6:00-7:00pm – Wear Santa Hats to School
- December 15th – Winter Parties 2:15-3:15pm – Wear Holiday Socks to School
- December 16th – Polar Express Day – Wear Pajamas to School
- December 19th – January 2nd – Winter Break
- January 3rd – Back to School!

Happy Holidays!

Thank you for sharing your children with us! They are a joy to teach and make us smile every day!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness, lots of love and good health.

Counselor's Corner!

The holiday season is upon us. Decorations and festivities are everywhere. This is the perfect time to practice and teach our character trait of the month of December, Kindness. Here are four ways to encourage kindness in our children.

1. **Avoid using external rewards** to reinforce kind behavior. As tempting as it may be to reward kids when they do something kind, that approach can backfire: They may learn that kindness is only worth performing when they'll be given a prize as a result. Instead, kids should get to experience the feeling that kindness is its own reward.
2. **Praise character, not behavior.** Research suggests that children are more likely to make kindness a habit if they are praised for being kind people rather than just for doing something kind. For example, saying, "You're such a helpful person" may be more effective than saying, "That was such a helpful thing to do." Praising their character encourages children to see kindness as an essential part of who they are and seems to be especially effective around age eight, when children are forming their moral identities.
3. **But criticize behavior, not character.** In other words, it's OK to induce guilt but not shame. Children who feel guilt ("I did a bad thing") after a wrong-doing are more likely to feel remorse and make amends than those who feel shame ("I am a bad person"). Criticizing a behavior conveys that it's possible for the child to change the behavior and make better choices in the future. Such criticism may be especially effective when it also includes positive affirmation (e.g., "You're a good person, and I know you can do better.")
4. **Model kind behavior.** Ultimately, actions speak louder than words when it comes to cultivating kindness. Research shows that when children witness adults behaving kindly, they are more likely to be kind themselves.