

The Echo Express

November 6, 2009

DATES

From Mr. Rushing's Desk:

November 11th
No School
Veterans' Day

November 18th
Late Arrival - 10:40am
AM Kindergarten will attend-No PM

November 20th
Muffins with Mom
8 - 8:45am

November 20th
PTA Iron Chef
Competition

November 20th
Picture Retake Day
10 - 1pm

November 25th
Early Dismissal 11:15am
Report Card Preparation
PM Kindergarten will attend-No AM

November 25th
Spirit Day
"Camouflage or
Inside Out or Backwards Day"

November 26 - 29th
No School
Thanksgiving Break

December 3rd & 4th
PTA's Santa's Secret Shop

December 4th
PTA's Family Holiday Fair
6 - 9 pm

December 7th
End of First Trimester

December 9th
Late Arrival - 10:40am
AM Kindergarten will attend-No PM

December 17th
Report Cards go home to parents

December 19th - January 3rd
No School
Winter Break

Veterans' Day - World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." Wednesday, November 11 there will be no school for staff and students. We will be honoring our Veterans' and active service military, within each classroom, over the next few days.

Late Arrival - November's late arrival day is Wednesday, November 18. Student arrival time is 10:40 with dismissal at 2:55. Morning kindergartner's will attend, but not the afternoon classes. Bus pick-ups will begin two hours later than normal and student drop-off time will be at 10:30am.

Muffins with Mom - At Pioneer Valley, we like to celebrate the special relationships that children have with their parents and guardians. On Friday, November 20, we will be celebrating Muffins with Mom from 8:00 - 8:45am. Everyone is invited, including grandmothers and aunties so please check your calendar and plan on attending.

Iron Chef Competition - PTA will be sponsoring an Iron Chef Competition on November 20. Kids are welcome to enter in one - of three categories: Cookies - Pies - or Open. In each category, one of the following ingredients must be used - Chocolate, Peanut Butter or Fruit. Entry forms will be sent home with students and also will be available in the office. Checking in of entries will be no earlier than 8:30 am.

Picture Retake Day - Picture retake day will be Friday, November 20 from 10 - 1 pm. Students who need to have their picture taken may wear regular clothing, but will have to change into their uniform afterwards. Parents who wish to have their child's picture retaken need to send the complete original packet back with their child on that day. We are expecting student photos, taken in October, to be back next week.

Early Dismissal Day - November 25 will be our next early dismissal day. Student dismissal will be at 11:15am. Afternoon kindergartners will attend in the morning and morning kindergartners will not attend on that day. This early dismissal time will be used to prepare student report cards. Student report cards will go home on December 17.

November Spirit Day - November's spirit day theme is "Camouflage or Inside Out or Backwards Day," on the 25. We want everyone to enjoy themselves by showing their school spirit but we still have rules that need to be followed. The main thing is that you should only add to or change parts of the uniform that match the theme. Blue jeans will not be allowed for uniform pants. If you are not sure about what is approved feel free to telephone. You can also send uniform clothing in the student's backpack in case you aren't sure about an item.

Thanksgiving Break - Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Day, presently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863. It did not become a federal holiday until 1941. Thanksgiving was historically a religious observation to give thanks to God and is still celebrated as such by many families, but it is now also considered a secular holiday as well. Students will return to school on Monday, November 30.

Santa's Secret Shop - Santa's Secret Shop is a delightful in-school holiday shopping experience for children. The shop is set up and operated by parent volunteers. Children purchase "secret" gifts for family and friends in the safety and security of their own school. Children learn the importance of saving their money and can plan their purchases in a positive learning environment. Santa's Secret Shop will be held during the school day on December 3 & 4 and in the evening of the 4th.

Holiday Fair - 16 school days until the PTA FAMILY HOLIDAY FAIR! The fair is a low cost, family event full of games, crafts, food, a cake walk and more! Santa will be available for pictures and the secret shop will be open too. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Response has been great, but we still have more slots to fill and could use your help. Please telephone the office and they will leave a message for PTA.

Book Fair at Santa's Secret Shop - This year's Santa's Secret Shop will have a library connection. Scholastic Publishers are sending us cases of buy-one-get-one-free materials. This book fair will feature books, posters, software, gift items, and stocking stuffers for the night of the holiday fair on December 4, all at buy-one-get-one-free prices. When you buy you support our library. Thanks in advance!

Holiday Family Ideas - **Homemade Gifts and Decorations** - making your own gifts for loved ones and decorating your house with homemade ornaments lends a warm, personal touch to the holidays. **Holiday Cards** - don't buy mass-produced greeting cards at the store this year. **Make your own creative cards at home.** **Fun Printables and Activities** - find projects for your kids to do during the holidays, like create homemade decorations, or preserve holiday memories in a scrapbook. **Holiday Quizzes** - test your knowledge about holiday origins, traditions, and more. **Holiday Books and Movies** - find out what new movies are out and what new books are available to read around the holidays. **Yuletide Yummies** - get delicious, easy-to-make holiday recipes that your kids can help make. Making the holidays memorable does not have to cost a lot of money and can be the perfect opportunity to create family traditions.

Welcome Mrs. Sharp - Please welcome Mrs. Sharp, music teacher, who will be joining us through December for Ms. duBois. Mrs. Sharp has family in the area, but graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in music education. She also earned her master's degree through a jazz music project. Mrs. Sharp lives locally with her husband and two children and although enjoys all types of music, is especially fond of the french horn. Mrs. duBois has taken a leave of absence for health reasons. Cards maybe sent to Ms. duBois through the office. If you would like to speak with Mrs. Sharp please call, *683.8900.

Student Absences & Late Arrivals - It is that time of season, when students are getting a cold or flu. Please make sure you are calling each day that your student is absent to let the attendance office know. We have seen an increase of tardy students in the past weeks. Just a reminder that school starts at 8:40am, with the tardy bell at 8:50am and we dismiss at 2:55pm. Please make sure your students are here on time, as their late arrival impacts their education and disrupts the learning of students already in class. A big thank you to all parents and guardians for sending in the absence notes. We are at an all time low of unexcused absences!

Changes in Student Day - With over 600 students, plus our preschool students, you can imagine how difficult student drop-off and pick-up times can be. All students need to accompany their classroom teachers out of the building and exit to the bus or designated pick-up area. Students who are doing something "different" than normal need to have written permission from their parent or guardian. This written permission includes a change in bus color or bus stop. This note needs to be brought to the office prior to the end of the school day and a bus slip will be issued to the student. Please remember that private cars, other than staff vehicles, are not allowed in the bus lot. Also, do not request that your child travel in the parking lot without an adult accompanying them - as this is a huge safety issue.

Lost & Found - Missing a coat, hat, gloves or lunch box? Please come by the school lobby and check out the lost and found. We have a lot of missing items that are looking for their home. After December 12, all the lost and found will be donated to a local charity. It is important that student names are written in or on your student's articles. This also helps us to return clothing to our students rather than donating the items.

Student Drop-off & Pick-up - PLEASE, parents for the safety of ALL students at Pioneer Valley we need you to follow some guidelines when dropping off or picking up your children. We are well aware of the limited parking and the congestion at the beginning and end of the school day. However, it is very important that everyone abide by some simple rules.

- * Don't leave your vehicle in the drop-off area, even just to stand nearby or to visit with other parents.
- * Do not summon your child across the parking lot. Adults need to walk with children in the parking lot.
- * Move forward with traffic as space allows. Please do not leave space or gaps between cars.
- * Explain this process to your children so they understand that you will not always park in the same spot.

Moving ?! - It is always very important to inform the office if you are moving or changing addresses. If your family is moving please contact the office as soon as possible. The office will prepare the paperwork necessary for you to enroll your child at their new school. This also gives teacher an opportunity to prepare a report card and to be sure that no books, classroom or library, are unaccounted for. Fines or fees need to be paid so that records can be sent to the new school.