



BALLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Volunteering & Background Checks:

Here are a few FAQ's about volunteering & visiting:

> **What if I have not completed a background check?**

You may visit with your child only when in the school

> **What if someone shows up like an aunt/grandparent, what is the policy?**

The secretary will check the district list.

If they have not done an I-chat, they are not allowed to volunteer.

> **What if a parent shows up and wants to bring along a friend who is not on the list, what is the policy?**

If they have not done an I-chat, they are not allowed to volunteer.

> **What if a parent visits at lunch or on the playground?**

Parents who wish to eat lunch with their students must sign in at the office and wear a visitor tag.

They can only eat with their child at a separate, designated table.

Parents are no longer allowed to be on the playground.

*****If you have not completed a volunteer form & would like to, please contact our office or your child's teacher.**

DATES

December 2019:

Fri Dec 6th
HALF DAY for all kids
Dismissal at 11:58

Tues Dec 17th
4th Grade Music Concert, 6pm
5th Grade Music Concert, 7pm

Wed Dec 18th
Storytime with Santa
5:30-7:00

Dec. 23 - Jan. 3
Winter Break: No School

Thurs Jan. 9
PTO Meeting 4:00 in the Library

Recent Happenings

We celebrated Perfect Attendance on Tuesday November 5th with all students who have had perfect attendance from Sept 3 - Oct. 29 (Data Point 1). We are excited to announce we had 143 students join us for the pizza party in the cafe! Great work everyone!

Another pizza party will be hosted in January, for Data Point 2 which ends on January 10.



We are THANKFUL for our community partners who have teamed-up with Ballard to provide several families winter gear, food, coats, etc. for the Holiday season.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to:

- Salvation Army Toys for Tots
- Shelton's Farm Market
- Family Video
- Elk's Lodge
- Shop with a Cop
- P2P Adopt-a-family program

Music Class: 4th & 5th Grade Holiday Concerts

On Tuesday, December 17 all 4th and 5th grade classes will perform their Holiday Music concerts at Ballard Elementary in the gym. The 4th grade classes, including Mrs. Kelliher's class, will perform at 6:00 PM. The 5th grade classes, including Mrs. White's 4th graders, will perform at 7:00 PM. More information will be sent home after Thanksgiving.

In Physical Education.....

students from Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades will have the opportunity to learn how to roller skate. Skatertime is a program that brings roller skates to schools so students can learn how to skate right in the gym! Each class will receive 5 sessions of skating starting on February 27. The cost of the program will be just \$9 per student. More information will be coming in the future as we get closer to the starting date. Thank You, Mr. Payne!

Pathways to Potential:

If your student is a member of the P2P Bracelet Club, please have them bring their bracelet to lunch EVERY WEDNESDAY in December. There will be three opportunities this month for them to pick out a reward (or a gift for a friend or family member!)

Reminder-

All students who have Perfect Attendance from September 3rd-December 19th will be placed in a drawing to win a trip to the Silver Beach Carousel in St. Joseph, MI. 25 students will be chosen to visit the Carousel, enjoy full access to the Curious Kids Discovery Zone, and see Santa for a special gift. The celebration will take place on Sunday, December 22nd. Transportation to the event will be provided-bus pick up for the students and their families will be at 10:00am, here at Ballard, with a return time of 2:00pm.

Keep up the Great Work!!

Every Day Counts!!

Missing School= Missing Out!

Medicine at School:

If your child will be taking medicine at school - even if it's over the counter medicine, and even if it's only for a couple of days - you must complete the proper paperwork for your child to take the medicine. Students should not be transporting the medicine themselves, an adult must drop it off. Also, the paperwork must be on file in the office before your child can receive the medicine.

PTO Update:

December 5, *PTO Meeting, 4pm*

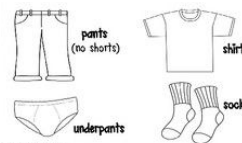
December 8-14, *Give Back Shopping at Five Below*

January 14, *BINGO Family Night, 6pm*

CHANGE OF CLOTHES

Spills and accidents do occur in school. Please provide a **COMPLETE** change of clothing for your child. This can be kept in their backpacks in their lockers, or with their teacher. Be sure to label the items or bag with your child's name. We hate to disrupt your day or a family member's day to bring a change of clothes, when we can help with these unpleasant situations.

Thank you for your cooperation and willingness to help!



Things to know about Attendance...

**Is your child sick?
Will he or she be missing school?**

Please call the school office and notify them of his or her absence.

One thing to note: the only way an absence is 100% excused is with a doctor's note. If your child has an appointment of any kind, please ask for a note and give it to the office.