

Wales Window

Website: www.tantasqua.org/wales




Next School Committee Meeting: (December 17th 6pm)
School Committee Voicemail: 245-7571 ext. 132
Website: www.tantasqua.org/wales

December 2014

COMING EVENTS







Holiday Snacks:



In order to adhere to the District-wide Wellness Policy, we are asking you not to send in treats for holiday parties. Classroom teachers will contact volunteers to assist in the preparation of individual parties. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Attendance:



When it comes to school, students who miss school...miss out. They miss out on opportunities to learn, build lasting friendships, and develop the skills and attitudes needed to become good citizens and valued employees. There is a very strong connection between student attendance and student performance in school. Research shows that students who attend school every day pass state tests in reading and math at much higher rates than students who attend school less than 85% of the time. Higher attendance equals higher achievement for **all** students.



JUST A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:30am.

It is important that students arrive on time in order to eliminate disruption to the educational process. PLEASE BE PROMPT!

Illustration by: *Piper/PK*



All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.

Bottle & Can Drive:

***Please support the Fifth Grade Educational Outdoor Experience Fund. Donate your clean returnable cans and bottles by placing them in the container labeled "Cans for Camp" located near the school entrance driveway.

Reminders:

1. "No School" announcements can be heard on the following stations:

*WESO Q100 FM
WTAG/WSRS 580 AM/96.1 FM
WBZ 1030 AM
Ch. 5 WCVB/Boston
Ch. 7 WHDH-WRKO/Boston
Ch. 40 WGGB-TV/Springfield
Fox 25 WFXT/Boston*

2. *Remember* our call-back program is in progress. Please call the school when your child is going to be absent.

Boots:

Many students wear "boots" as all day footwear in the building. Although it is the winter season and boots are needed for outdoor recess, it is unhealthy to keep them on during the day. As stated in our Student Handbook, "Boots are not appropriate and unsafe during physical education classes".

READING:

I hope your reading at home is going well. Sharing the love of a good story and quality time with your child will foster the appreciation of literature in your home.

Remember you are "making memories" for your children that they will carry with them forever and pass on to their children.

From The Health Office:

Making the Holidays Safe

Family gatherings, special traditions, delicious treats — the holiday season may be the most wonderful time of the year, especially for kids. Unfortunately, for emergency room doctors it's also one of the busiest.

Learn how to protect your little ones from some common holiday dangers, so you and your family can enjoy a season that's happy and healthy.

Poisoning

- Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Jerusalem cherry plants, and other plants are commonly used as decorations during the holidays. Like many plants, these are considered potentially poisonous and should be kept out of the reach of kids. Symptoms of plant poisoning can include rashes, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. If you suspect that your child has eaten any part of a plant, immediately call your doctor or the National Poison Center: **(800) 222-1222**.
- "Bubble lights" containing methylene chloride can be poisonous if a child drinks the fluid from more than one light (even if labeled nontoxic). Snow sprays may be harmful if the aerosol propellants are used improperly.
- Alcohol poisoning is a common risk for children during the holiday season. Many parents host holiday parties where alcohol is served. Parents must take care to

remove **all** empty and partially empty cups as soon as possible. Because kids imitate adults, many may drink the beverages they see adults drinking. Children become "drunk" much more quickly than adults, so even small amounts of alcohol can be dangerous.

- Food poisoning is another potential holiday hazard. Practice food safety by washing hands, utensils, dishes, and anything else that comes in contact with raw meat, including poultry and fish, and raw eggs before and after use. Don't contaminate a serving dish with raw meat. Store leftovers properly and heat them thoroughly before serving.

Choking and Swallowing

- Tree ornaments, light bulbs, icicles, tinsel, and small toys are potential choking hazards for small children because they may block the airway. The general rule of thumb is that if it's small enough to fit in the mouths of babies and toddlers, it's too small to play with.
- Common holiday foods such as peanuts or popcorn are potential choking hazards and should not be given to children under age 4.
- The needles of holiday trees can cause painful cuts in the mouth and throat of a child who swallows them.
- Angel hair (made from finely spun glass) and ornament hangers may cause cuts, skin irritation, or eye damage if touched or swallowed by children.

Fire

- Keep your tree secured in a sturdy stand so that it doesn't tip over (or

isn't knocked over by kids or pets) and keep it away from all heat sources such as electrical outlets, radiators, and portable space heaters. If you buy an artificial tree, be sure that it is labeled "fire-retardant." Unplug all lights, both indoor and outdoor, and extinguish all candles every night before you go to bed.

- Avoid using real candles on a tree because if the needles are dry they can easily catch fire. Never leave the room with single candles or menorah candles burning — it only takes a minute for a spark from a candle to burst into flames. Keep live candles away from windowsills and mantles and use only flame-retardant decorations when decking your halls.
- Circuits that are overloaded with lights, decorations, and accessories can start a fire. Don't overload indoor or outdoor electrical outlets.
- Have your fireplace inspected before you light your first fire of the season. A chimney professional can clean your fireplace and ensure that it is safe to use. You can protect your family by using a sturdy fireplace screen when burning fires. Never burn paper or pine boughs, since those materials can float out of the chimney and ignite a nearby home.
- Practice fire safety, have a family emergency plan in the event of a fire, and check smoke detectors before you put up your holiday decorations. These steps will ensure that your family will be able to

celebrate many holiday seasons to come.

Accidents

- A lot of cooking goes on during the holiday season, so there are many opportunities for burns and scaldings. Keep pot handles turned away from the front of the stove and always keep the oven door closed. To prevent accidents, watch your kids while you bake or cook. Kitchen appliances should be clean to prevent potential fires.
- Keep breakable ornaments out of young kids' reach — or keep them off the tree until your children are older. If one does break, clean up the broken glass quickly.
- There is an increased incidence of car accidents and injuries to children during the holiday season. Parents can prevent a holiday ER visit by making sure the kids are buckled up securely during car rides and by not driving after drinking alcohol. In addition, be wary when traveling during the evenings of holidays such as Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, since there is a higher incidence of drunk-driving accidents on these days.
- Sledding accidents can be very serious. Young kids should be supervised and should avoid dangerous sledding areas, such as rocky areas, steep hills, and crowded sledding hills.

National Hand Washing Week:

December 1-5

Many young children are in group settings such as daycare, preschool, Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education

Programs and church nurseries. These children, especially those with handicapping conditions or chronic illness, are at greater risk for getting an infectious disease for several reasons:

1. When children are grouped together, they are exposed to many new germs.
2. Young children's immune systems are not fully developed to fight germs.
3. They are not in complete control of their body fluids which contain germs.
4. They have not learned healthy personal habits...they suck their thumbs, put things in their mouths and rub their eyes. These personal habits spread germs.

Studies have found that **hand washing** is the cheapest, easiest, single most effective way to prevent the spread of disease caused by germs. Children and caregivers must learn why, how and when to correctly wash their hands. **Good hand washing can reduce illness by 50%.** Please help us celebrate national hand washing week December 3rd -9th. The children will be learning people hand washing at school. Please help reinforce healthy habits at home.

Box Tops for Education:

Don't forget to send in your General Mills Boxtops on a regular basis.

Just a friendly reminder we do not collect soup labels.

PTF NEWS:

The **Fall Book Fair** will be December 8th through the 12th this year.

Information will be sent home regarding the times the Book Fair will be open each day and during Parent Teacher Conferences. The Book Fair will also be open during the Santa Breakfast.

Please join us on December 6th for the **Santa Breakfast**. (Snow date is **December 13th**). We will be serving a hot breakfast of eggs, french toast sticks, hash browns, sausages, fruit, and beverages. There will be visits and pictures with Santa and a raffle for graciously donated gifts. Join us to celebrate the holidays and enjoy a delicious breakfast! The breakfast will be from 9-11 a.m. with breakfast served from 9-10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$4 each for adults and \$3 each for children. Tickets can be purchased in advance.

The PTF is collecting donations for the Santa Breakfast Raffle. Please let us know if your family would like to donate an item or if you know of a business that would like to donate an item or gift certificate.

Funds have been allocated to renew our school membership on the Learning a-z and Raz Kids websites.

Keep sending in those **Boxtops!!** We're doing great this year. Remind your family and friends that Wales Elementary School collects Boxtops. Also, as you begin your holiday shopping, remember to visit www.boxtops4education.com first if you are shopping online. Our school will receive a percentage of your purchase. The Boxtops Website also has coupons you can print off to use while you shop and monthly sweepstakes you can enter to win more points for our school. Both of these are easy ways to help our school and children.

Wales Elementary is taking part in the Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks programs. The Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks program allows us to accrue points

for each purchase made and actually earn cash for our school. This year you do not have to re-register your Stop and Shop card if you registered it last year. If you have never registered your card, you must do so in order for us to get credit for your purchases. Please remind family and friends that Wales Elementary is participating in this program. It is a simple, easy way to help out our school and children.

Save these Dates!!
December 6th Santa Breakfast
Book Fair December 8th-12th

If you have some ideas or any questions or suggestions, please contact PTF

- send a note addressed to PTF to the office where we have a mailbox
- email us at WalesPTF@hotmail.com
- call Dawn at 413-237-4369

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Santa Breakfast.

<u>Dates to Remember</u>	
December	2 PTF Mtg 6pm
	5 School Banking
	6 PTF Santa Breakfast
	10 Report Cards
	11 Parent Teacher Conferences
	12 Early Release – 11:45am
	12 Parent Teachers Conferences
	17 School Committee – 6pm
	19 School Banking
	23 Sing-A-Long 2pm
24-January	4 NO SCHOOL
	5 Classes Resume

We wish everyone a happy holiday season!