

LITCHFIELD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



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Jennifer Murphy
Principal

February 11, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we dig ourselves out from many snow storms, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on some helpful information. Please remind your students to dress appropriately for the cold weather with coats, hats, and gloves. During the winter months, we still go outside for recess. Our goal is to keep all of our students feeling well by encouraging healthy behaviors such as washing their hands before eating, using Kleenex to cover their mouths when they sneeze, discarding their own Kleenex, not sharing water bottles or food, etc.

In order to accommodate for the high number of snow cancellations, the Board of Education at their February 9 meeting voted to keep school in session on Tuesday, February 22, and Wednesday, February 23. Students who cannot attend school on either of those days due to family plans will be credited with "excused" absences. If you have any questions about travel plans or absences during these days, please contact me at (860)567-7520.

Our school nurse, Tina Cordani, will begin scoliosis screening next month. In compliance with section 10-214 of the Connecticut Education Regulations, postural screenings will be conducted for students in grades 5 and 6. If your child has been screened this school year by his or her own physician and a report has been given to the school, your child will be exempt from the screening. Ms. Cordani will send home a separate schedule to let you know what day your child will participate in the screening. Please contact Ms. Cordani with any concerns or questions at (860)567-7523.

As you know, during the month of March, Connecticut Mastery Testing is done throughout the state. To help make this process as smooth as possible, we ask that children arrive to school on time during the test window. We will start tests by 8:50 a.m. and conclude at approximately 10:00. Children arriving after the test has started will not be allowed to enter their classroom and will need to take a make-up. We recommend children eat a good breakfast and get a solid night's sleep to ensure optimal performance and help alleviate anxiety. We would like the testing experience to be as positive and stress-free as possible, celebrating students' hard work and learning. As the beginning of the test window nears, I will send home a detailed testing schedule.

I am pleased to announce that our school lunch program will now begin selling Guida's Health Moo reduced-sugar flavored milks in the cafeteria. We are certain this will be another positive step in our efforts to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

Also, if you have not signed up for our automatic email notification system, Constant Contact, please visit our web site and follow the links to sign up. Constant Contact is a great, paperless way to stay connected to school and district information.

Finally, just a reminder of upcoming important dates:

Monday, February 21: Presidents' Day, no school.

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 22 and 23: Regular session school days.

Tuesday, March 8: Connecticut Mastery Testing begins.

Wednesday, March 9: Early release day for students; dismissal is at 1:00; pick-ups are at 12:45.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Murphy".

Jennifer Murphy