Quote of the Week: "He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how."
- Friedrich Nietzsche

All Cougars during our End of Year Celebration before receiving their gift. Thank you to all of you who connected us with COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO MADE GIFT GIVING POSSIBLE!

Vision
The State of CT Accountability Report offers us an annual review of the areas of school improvement that we need to focus on. Our goal is to move closer and closer to achieving the status of a School of Distinction. Although we do have a mapped out how, the how is easier when we focus on why. If we want all students to be prepared for college and career, we need to plan out exactly what it will take to address all student needs.

Teaching & Learning
Attendance
- We had 283 students earn their perfect attendance bracelets for Nov. We hit 333 students for Dec! We are so proud of our families! Every prize gets better and better! January Perfect Attendance Stars will have a VIP Party. Below are other attendance reminders:
  - An attendance message goes out each day. Parents-please call the school if your child is sick so that we can change the attendance to excused. Teachers- please take attendance by 10:00 am.
  - Although we mark sick days as excused, the state monitors excused and unexcused absences. A student is considered truant if they are absent more than 4 days in one month and 10 days for the year. 18 absences for the year is considered chronically absent.
  - Holiday vacations are unexcused absences.

Socioemotional Wellness
We begin our rollout of rethink Ed to support with our socioemotional goal. Teachers, please see the attached document for more information about rollout. This week is our training week. During your prep, please spend time watching the PD video so that you are prepared for our first Morning Meeting lessons next week.

Extended Day
1) We only have three spaces left in the 5th Grade Carver Program! Students must maintain excellent attendance to keep their seat.
2) Students in grades 3-4 will have the opportunity to attend our annual SBAC College & Career Program. The program will begin in February and run through April. Stay tuned!
3) We will have the Springboard Summer Program again this summer. The anticipated dates are June 17th-August 2nd, Mon.-Fri (8-1). Students who are required, are mandated to attend, but just as last year, we will have seats to invite more students. Plan your vacation around the identified dates.
SIOP

Looking for a quick and easy SIOP strategy to review your vocabulary words?? Try SIOP Go Fish with your students!! I hope you enjoy trying to activity. Please contact Katina Asmani when you will be implementing the strategy to come and check it out or if you need support!

Community Engagement

- Our next SGC (6:00pm) and PTA (7:00pm) meetings will be on Thursday, Jan. 10th. The PTA has a new and improved agenda where everyone begins together and breaks into groups based on language needs. We want all of our families to feel valued. A light dinner will be provided. The PTA agenda was sent out. The SGC will focus on the School Improvement Plan this month.
- Fridays are School Spirit Fridays! Everyone is encouraged to wear Cougar Gear or all blue! Please purchase your Cougar Gear!

Safety & Security

Thank you so much for your cooperation with drop-off and pick-up. Many parents are parking in the handicap, fire, or drop off spaces. This is very dangerous. Moving forward, parents who need to go beyond the main office in the mornings will need to wait until the Security Officer completes his scan of the outside area.

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<tr>
<th>Staff Professional Development</th>
<th>Shout-outs</th>
<th>Looking Ahead</th>
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| Jan. 7th- No Faculty Meeting  | 1) Ms. Zambrano for her feedback on the bus entrance plan  
Jan. 14th- (Planning for student engagement) 90 min. meeting  
Jan. 28th- STEM  
Note: Please check the Staff Calendar for info. About Data Team Meetings and District PD Dates | 2) Ms. Lisle for her leadership with the 5th Grade Carver Program | Jan. 7th- 31st, Penny Wars  
Jan. 10th- SGC (6:00), PTA (7:00)  
Jan. 18th- Movie Night  
Jan. 21st- No School, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Jan. 23rd, 25th- PBIS Assemblies  
Jan. 24th, Winter Concert- 2:30, 7:00pm |

The School Store is OPEN but students must be in school by 8:45 to participate!

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