

# Green Meadow News

January 3, 2008



Dear Parents and Caregivers;

**Happy New Year** to all! We hope that 2008 is a year of peace and happiness for you and your family.

As the weather reminds us it appears that we are facing a **challenging winter**. We will be using Connect Ed – the automated phone system to contact you in case of school closing. The announcement will also be carried on Channels 4 and 5 as well as WAVM. You will also receive a phone call around 6:30 A.M. if you have given us an up to date phone number.

We did do an **emergency school closing** a few weeks ago which we are reluctant to do because it is difficult to get the news out. We do appreciate that several parents called us to check about our plans once the weather became a concern. It is never a bother for you to check in with us. When releasing students under these circumstances, we really like to make a 'live contact' with a parent. When we use **Connect Ed** we get immediate feedback telling us the exact people who got a 'live' message, who received a message, who had a fax or modem on and who had 'bad' phone numbers. On that particular day our feedback was we had 185 parents who received answering machine messages which means we had to contact these parents. I realize that some parents 'let the machine pick up messages' or other parents get the messages by remote. In each of these cases we are not sure that you received the message so **PLEASE** pick up the phone if you know the message is from school or call us back if you have received a recorded message. That day several staff members were manning phones to try and reach parents and we appreciate their help. Even though we reached parents as students were arriving home our intent was to protect the safety of all of our students. While we very rarely use this unplanned early dismissal, the plan needs to be in place in case of any emergency. We are checking with Connect Ed to see if multiple contact phone numbers can be programmed into the system (home, cell, each parent etc). We will keep you posted.

Just a reminder that we go **out to recess** when it is cold and in other weather conditions. We do not go out if it is bitterly cold or raining hard. It is actually refreshing, healthy and good exercise to get outside. We only let students remain inside if we have doctor's orders that state that. If students do not wear snow pants and boots, they cannot play in the snow. They still go outside but that play on the circle. All clothing should be marked with your child's name so it can be returned.

We **received another check from Life Touch for \$49.84** for those students who had their pictures done on retake day. We gave the check to the PTO.

Our next **School Council meeting** will be on January 7, 2008 from 6:30-8:00 P.M. in the office conference room. The public is invited to attend.

Our next **PTO meeting** will be on January 8, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the library. Please join us if you can.

The Green Meadow **Preschool Program will be holding an Information Night for parents** on Thursday, January 17, 2008 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Parents who are interested in enrolling their child for the 2008-2009 school year are invited to attend. During the evening parents will have an opportunity to learn about our program, meet our staff, visit our classrooms, and ask questions. The Green Meadow Preschool Program offers preschool for children 3 – 5 years old. The snow date for Information Night will be January 24, 2008. For more information call the Maynard Public Schools Department of Student Services @ 978-897-2138.

Sincerely,

Bernadette McLaughlin, Principal

<http://www.maynardschools.org/gms/>