



December Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

As I begin this monthly message, I would like to extend an invitation to all parents and families to attend our annual Winter Concert scheduled for December 9th in the middle school auditorium. We are fortunate to have so many students involved in our band and choral programs. I am certain that your attendance will be appreciated.

We are quickly approaching the 60th day of the school year. It is difficult to believe that we have already advanced to this place in the academic year. The faculty and administration are evaluating pacing and alignment of curriculum within all content areas. It is extremely important that we continually evaluate our progress and make any adjustments if appropriate.

Our fifth annual Turkey Trot, held at the middle school on November 24th, was a clear success. This year student involvement reached a new high with 250 students participating. Making this event possible each year requires a collaborative effort. I would like to thank all staff, community members and students who participated. A specific word of appreciation goes out to Mr. Joyal, our middle school assistant principal, who brought this great opportunity to our school five years ago and continues to provide the annual leadership.

It is my hope that you and your families will enjoy the holiday season. The memories that we forge serve as a continual reminder of the importance of family, home and the great freedoms that we enjoy.

Until next time, keep safe and please remember to participate in your child's education.

SCHOOL VACATION:

School will be closed December 24 thru January 1, 2010. School will re-open on Monday, January 4, 2010.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

The next meeting of our School Council will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the PMMS conference room.

WINTER CONCERT:

STRHS will hold its annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 9, at 7 pm in the STRHS auditorium. It is a perfect opportunity to get your seasonal "Sleigh ride" fix and hear first hand how our former students continue to grow as young musicians.

The PMMS Winter Concert will be Thursday, December 17, at 7 pm in the PMMS auditorium. The chorus, band, and WMG will perform their usual mix of serious and seasonal music. In addition, the 6/7/8 Band will musically ask the question, "Can Santa Can Can?"

Performing students should report no later than 6:30. Concert attire for performing students is white shirt/blouse and black pants/skirts.

SPIRIT CLUB:

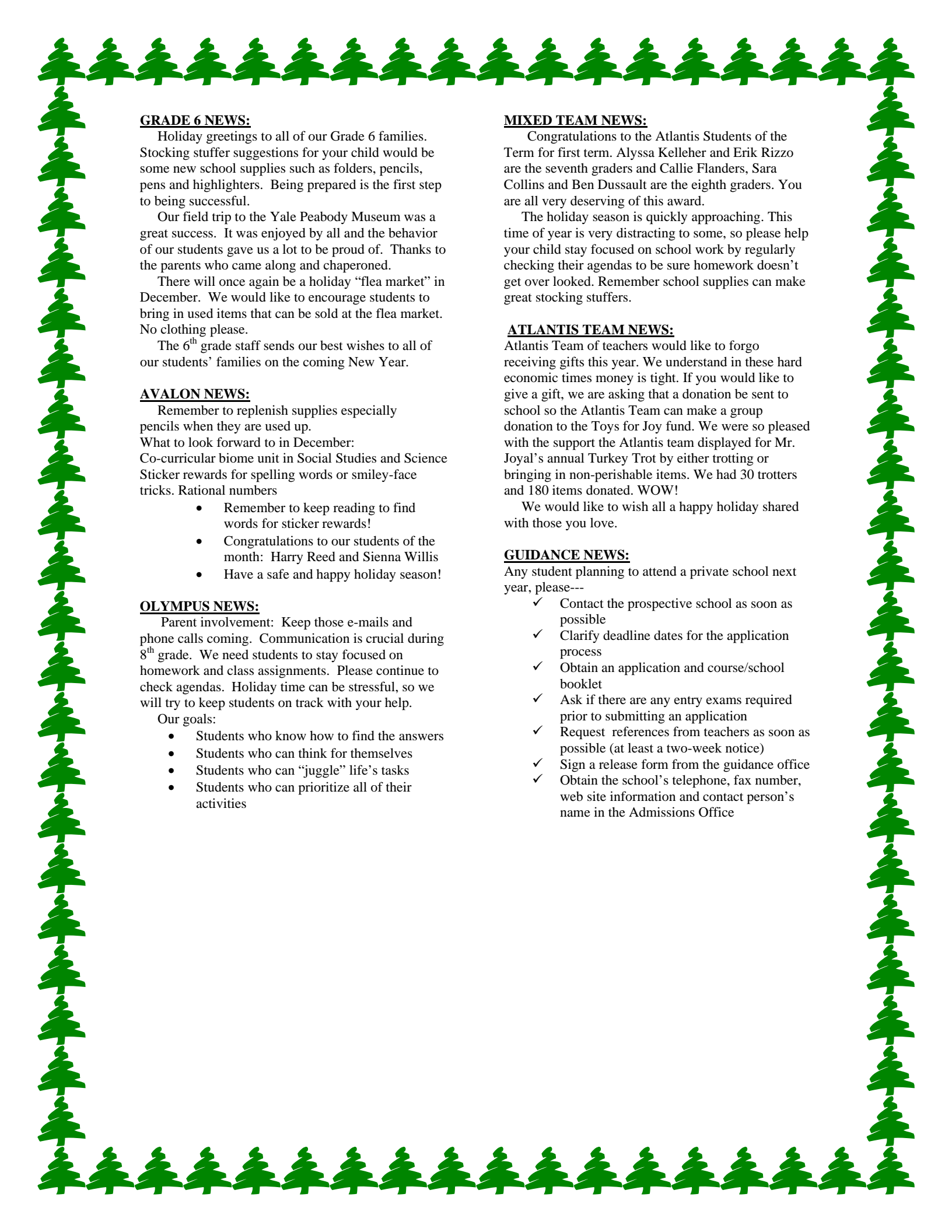
The Spirit Club and Student Advisory Council would like to thank everyone who donated "coats for kids." They are being donated to the women's shelter in Westfield. The Westfield chapter also provides shelter for Southwick residents.

GRADE 5 NEWS:

The fifth grade Spirit Club will be holding its annual flea market from Dec. 15th to the 17th. All students participate. If you have donations please bring them to school. We accept just about anything other than clothing. We could also use adult volunteers who are willing to help with the flea market. You can contact Sue Barnett.

The Spirit Club is also bringing back A Ray of Elvis! He will be appearing at Powder Mill School on January 28th along with performers from our school. Auditions for this show will be held. More information will be available in the near future.

Our fifth graders are participating in Second Step, a program conducted by Terry Day, our guidance counselor. Students learn about conflict resolution and good decision making practices.



GRADE 6 NEWS:

Holiday greetings to all of our Grade 6 families. Stocking stuffer suggestions for your child would be some new school supplies such as folders, pencils, pens and highlighters. Being prepared is the first step to being successful.

Our field trip to the Yale Peabody Museum was a great success. It was enjoyed by all and the behavior of our students gave us a lot to be proud of. Thanks to the parents who came along and chaperoned.

There will once again be a holiday "flea market" in December. We would like to encourage students to bring in used items that can be sold at the flea market. No clothing please.

The 6th grade staff sends our best wishes to all of our students' families on the coming New Year.

AVALON NEWS:

Remember to replenish supplies especially pencils when they are used up. What to look forward to in December: Co-curricular biome unit in Social Studies and Science Sticker rewards for spelling words or smiley-face tricks. Rational numbers

- Remember to keep reading to find words for sticker rewards!
- Congratulations to our students of the month: Harry Reed and Sienna Willis
- Have a safe and happy holiday season!

OLYMPUS NEWS:

Parent involvement: Keep those e-mails and phone calls coming. Communication is crucial during 8th grade. We need students to stay focused on homework and class assignments. Please continue to check agendas. Holiday time can be stressful, so we will try to keep students on track with your help.

Our goals:

- Students who know how to find the answers
- Students who can think for themselves
- Students who can "juggle" life's tasks
- Students who can prioritize all of their activities

MIXED TEAM NEWS:

Congratulations to the Atlantis Students of the Term for first term. Alyssa Kelleher and Erik Rizzo are the seventh graders and Callie Flanders, Sara Collins and Ben Dussault are the eighth graders. You are all very deserving of this award.

The holiday season is quickly approaching. This time of year is very distracting to some, so please help your child stay focused on school work by regularly checking their agendas to be sure homework doesn't get over looked. Remember school supplies can make great stocking stuffers.

ATLANTIS TEAM NEWS:

Atlantis Team of teachers would like to forgo receiving gifts this year. We understand in these hard economic times money is tight. If you would like to give a gift, we are asking that a donation be sent to school so the Atlantis Team can make a group donation to the Toys for Joy fund. We were so pleased with the support the Atlantis team displayed for Mr. Joyal's annual Turkey Trot by either trotting or bringing in non-perishable items. We had 30 trotters and 180 items donated. WOW!

We would like to wish all a happy holiday shared with those you love.

GUIDANCE NEWS:

Any student planning to attend a private school next year, please---

- ✓ Contact the prospective school as soon as possible
- ✓ Clarify deadline dates for the application process
- ✓ Obtain an application and course/school booklet
- ✓ Ask if there are any entry exams required prior to submitting an application
- ✓ Request references from teachers as soon as possible (at least a two-week notice)
- ✓ Sign a release form from the guidance office
- ✓ Obtain the school's telephone, fax number, web site information and contact person's name in the Admissions Office