



SWIS Newsletter

December

2023

Swanson Road
Intermediate School

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear SWIS Community,

As December unfolds, it brings with it a feeling that lightens our hearts and fills the air with a sense of joy and togetherness. As we reflect on the year that has passed, I am filled with immense gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared as a school community.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated and resilient students. Their curiosity, creativity, and determination have been an inspiration for all of us. Each of them contributes to the culture at SWIS, and I am proud to see their growth and achievements.

To our exceptional educators, thank you for your constant commitment to developing the minds and hearts of our students. Your passion for education shines through in every lesson, and the positive impact you have on our students is amazing. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and I am grateful for the difference you make every day.

I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to all of our parents and guardians. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we create a school where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for entrusting us with your children.

As we approach the winter break, let's take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments and milestones of the past months at SWIS, as there are SO many. Our students have successes in so many areas and have demonstrated resilience, responsibility, and a remarkable sense of community. Whether in the classroom, at specials, engaged in clubs, or involved in projects, their achievements are a direct result of our collective support.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am excited about the possibilities that lie before our school community. Together, we will continue to promote a community that encourages curiosity, embraces diversity, and promotes kindness. Let's approach the coming months with optimism, compassion for one another, and shared commitment to continuing to create a positive and rich experience for every member of our SWIS family.

May this holiday season bring you warmth, joy, and moments of reflection with loved ones. I wish you all a peaceful and restful break, filled with the love and laughter that makes this special time of year.

Thank you for being an integral part of the SWIS community. Here's to a wonderful December and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Dr. Lopez



From the Desk of Mrs. Pitsillides

We've continued our focus on our PBIS expectations, encouraging positive behavior school-wide. Students are thrilled to earn Blue Tickets for showcasing these behavior expectations. Redeeming these tickets for classroom prizes, privileges, or the monthly PBIS event is a highlight for our students, adding to the success of our PBIS efforts at SWIS.

Throughout the month of November, students worked hard to earn 30 Blue Tickets to attend our BINGO for Prizes monthly event. We had a great time playing as many rounds of BINGO as we could in 30 minutes, shouting out BINGO, picking out prizes, and of course, hanging out with friends.

In our character education program, we worked on being **Good Citizens** in November. In December we will be working on **Kindness and Service to Others**.

November - Good Citizenship

Obedying the laws of the nation and this State; abiding by school rules; and understanding the rights and responsibilities of a member of a republic

*Congratulations to all of our November Students of the Month for following our school rules, being responsible and above all else being **Good Citizens** here at SWIS!!!*

December - Kindness/Service to Others (Caring/Compassion/Service to others)

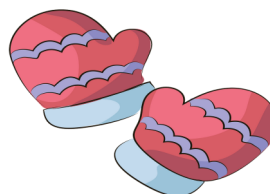
To be considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of others; to show care, compassion, friendship, and generosity; to treat others as you would like to be treated

If you're eager and able to partner with us in fostering an atmosphere of fun, engagement, and positive reinforcement through PBIS activities, we invite you to explore our PBIS Amazon Wishlist:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1B3BMVLWCRWPY?ref=wl_share

Recess

At SWIS, we believe in the power of outdoor play for our students' growth and happiness. To make sure everyone can enjoy fresh air and playtime, please send your child to school each day dressed for the weather. Don't forget to label their outdoor attire with their name, so it's easier to return any misplaced items. Whether it's a sunny day or a chilly one, your support ensures a positive recess experience for all at SWIS. Thanks for partnering with us in creating a vibrant and active school community!



Students of the Month : November *Good Citizenship*

Grade 3

Mrs. Caplette	Gracyn O'Brien
Mrs. Chalupka	Charlotte Paddock
Ms. Clough	Teagan Camuso
Mrs. D'Agostino	Isaac Lang
Mrs. Furmanik	Jillian Benoit
Mrs. King	Eli Merrick
Mrs. Murphy	Luke Gamache
Mrs. Murray	Beatrice Tomasello
Mrs. Scanlon	Max Yanka

Grade 4

Ms. Auger	Eve Edie
Mrs. Barbour	William Bjork
Mrs. Burbank	Gianna Sabato
Mrs. Cody	Jonathan Charron
Ms. Connerton	Abigail Sisley
Ms. Gordon	Aria Mitchell
Mrs. Gagne	Sophia Spring
Mrs. Reno	Camden Lynch
Ms. Terlizzi	Carter Wallin
Mrs. Vessio	Etna Gjoni



Grade 5

Mrs. Bowes	Krishiv Patel
Mrs. DeRobbio	Hunter Majkut
Mrs. DiMeglio	Alicyn Ledoux
Mrs. Fontaine	McKenna Armstrong
Mrs. Forgues	Dominic Ramos
Mrs. Kane	Arsal Chaudry
Mrs. Locke	Laura Harakles
Mrs. Lundy	Claire Synal
Mrs. MacCormack	Joshua Lucier



Nursing Notes

Our District Lead Nurse, Kerri Gustafson, BSN, RN, NCSN, recently updated the Health Services Website on the District website. It includes wellness information, policies, forms for school and other helpful information.

[Auburn Public Schools - Health Services](#)

Winter is here and with it comes all those winter germs. Here are some tips to help prevent the spread of germs:

[Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs.](#)

Take other preventive actions in addition to vaccination that may help reduce the spread of viruses like flu.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them. For [flu](#), CDC recommends that people stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone except to get medical care or other necessities. Fever should be gone without the need to use a fever-reducing medicine.

Cover coughs and sneezes.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Masks also can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses. People who are sick might be asked to wear a mask to protect others, but a mask can protect the wearer too. This might be especially important if you are at higher risk of developing serious complications from flu.
-

[Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with viruses that cause flu.
- Virus in the air can spread between people more easily indoors than outdoors. Improving air quality, such as opening windows or using air purifiers, can help reduce the amount of virus you are exposed to.

Courtesy: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#)

Grade 3 News



We hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with the joy of the season! As we approach the month of December, we have exciting updates and important information to share about what your third graders will be learning and experiencing in the coming weeks. Here's a snapshot of what to expect in each subject area.

In social studies, our young historians will delve into the rich history of the Wampanoag people. The students will learn about the Wampanoag tribe's culture, traditions, and their significant role in American history. To enhance their understanding, we encourage parents to engage in discussions with their children about what they are learning.

December is all about mastering multiplication facts! The students will be engaged in fun and creative activities to solidify their understanding of multiplication. Practicing at home with games, flashcards, songs, Xtra Math, and real-life scenarios will greatly enhance their mathematical skills. Your support in reinforcing these concepts is truly appreciated.

In reading, we're diving into expository texts about our Earth and its neighbors. Additionally, the third graders will immerse themselves in folktales featuring animals. Encourage your child to share their newfound knowledge and stories with you at home. This is a wonderful opportunity to foster a love for reading and expand their understanding of different genres. Please remind your child to read at least 15 minutes each day at home which has numerous benefits including increasing vocabulary, strengthening comprehension, and improving writing skills.

In writing, our budding authors will be busy crafting fictional stories and free verse poems this month. Encourage creativity and imagination at home by discussing their writing projects. Your encouragement and interest play a vital role in nurturing their writing skills.

In science, we'll be exploring the wonders of water and the fascinating changes in seasonal weather. Discussions will also include important lessons about weather hazards. Engage your child in conversations about these topics to reinforce their scientific knowledge and curiosity.

Mark your calendars for the third grade Winter Concert on Monday, December 11th, where our talented third graders will showcase their musical skills!

There are two separate concerts which will be held, one at 9:30AM and the other at 1:30PM.

9:30AM Chalupka, Murphy, Caplette, and Clough 1:30PM King, D'Agastino, Murray, Scanlon, and Furmanick



As the weather turns colder, please ensure your child comes to school dressed warmly, with coats, hats, and gloves for outdoor activities. Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in your child's education. We look forward to a month filled with exploration, learning, and celebration! Warm regards, The Third Grade Teachers

Grade 4 News



We hope all of our families had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving break. As we say goodbye to November, we say hello to a very busy time of year for our students both at home and in school. There will be much excitement this month, and it becomes a bit more challenging for students to maintain focus on learning. Thank you for your support by making sure homework is completed every night.

In math, we will be wrapping up Chapter 4 the content of which was learning strategies for dividing with one digit divisors. It's great to see the students using the different strategies and mental math to divide. Learning to estimate is an important real life strategy that we all use. Many strategies for dividing involve multiplication so students should keep practicing their facts daily.

In science, we have completed our first unit. Students learned about Earth's features and how they are affected by weathering, erosion, deposition, and Earth's natural hazards.

In social studies, we will be finishing our unit on immigration before the holiday break. After this, we will be studying the regions of the United States for the remainder of the year. We will begin our study with the Northeast region.

In Wonders, we will be completing unit 2. The topic for this reading unit is animals. The Big Idea is, "How do animal characters change familiar stories?". We have read some folk tales and plays with animals as the main characters. We also read nonfiction texts as well. The children have really enjoyed these animal selections. It is important that your child continues to read at home so he or she can practice the comprehension and vocabulary skills learned in class. Children are never too old to be read to and enjoy literature with an adult. Not only will you be creating great bonding moments, but it will help your child's fluency and comprehension.

We wish all our families a very Happy Holiday! Thank you for a wonderful 2023. We look forward to working with you in 2024.

December in Grade 5



Homework: In addition to nightly homework assignments, we ask that your child spend at least 20 minutes reading each night. It is also important that students master all math facts.

Curriculum:

In Math, we have just completed Chapter 3, which focused on adding and subtracting decimals. We are currently learning how to multiply decimals in Chapter 4. The focus of Chapter 5 will be dividing decimals. It would benefit your students greatly if they mastered multiplication and division facts. In Science, we have switched to our next science topic/ science teacher. If you have any questions about Science, do not hesitate to get in touch with your student's homeroom or science teacher.

In Social Studies, we are finishing up learning about the 13 original colonies and have moved on to the American Revolution. Students are very excited to learn about this time in our history.

In Reading, we are finishing up Unit 2 in our Wonders Program. This unit focused on text features, context clues, theme, sequencing, and setting. We continue to work on answering open-response questions using text evidence to support our answers.

Communication: Please stay in communication with your child's teacher. It is essential that we work together to ensure that each child has a successful year!

We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

-The Fifth Grade Team

Music Notes



Music is gearing up for a week (and a half!) long full of concerts! Follow [this link](#) for more information regarding your students' dress attire and concert lyric practice pages. All concerts will be grouped in two different times, please be sure to review class names and times to plan accordingly! Students have been working hard and are excited to share what they know. Can't wait to see you there! Mr Bilis & Miss. Terlato

3rd grade concert will be held on **Monday, December 11th, at Swanson Road Intermediate School**

9:30am:

- Chalupka
- Murphy
- Caplette
- Clough

1:30pm:

- King
- D'Agostino
- Murray
- Scanlon
- Furmanick

4th grade concert will be held on **Wednesday, December 13th, at Swanson Road Intermediate School**

9:30am:

- Gordon
- Reno
- Vessio
- Connerton

1:30pm:

- Cody
- Terlizzi
- Burbank
- Barbour
- Gagne





Music Notes (Cont)...

5th grade concert will be held on **Friday, December 15th, at Swanson Road Intermediate School**

9:30am:

- Kane
- Lundy
- Forgues
- MacCormack
- DiMeglio

1:30pm:

- Locke
- Bowes
- Fontaine
- DeRobbio

SWIS Honor Chorus Concert will be held on **Tuesday, December 19th, at Swanson Road Intermediate School**

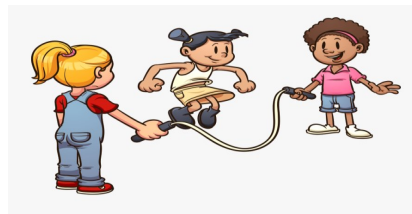
There will be **one concert** held at 9:30 am



PE News

As we get into the winter months, please be sure your child has sneakers on PE days. It never hurts to have sneakers in the backpack if you are unsure, if you need help with when your child has PE please reach out to their PE teacher directly. We had an awesome assembly with "Learnin' the Ropes" which is kickstarting our jump roping skills in class. If you have a rope at home, ask your child to show you their new skills over the next few weeks. Jumping rope is an activity the whole family can engage in with very little space or equipment and it is one of the most heart healthy exercises! The best way to create healthy active behaviors that last forever is to engage as an entire family, and stay active through the cold and the holidays.

~Mr. Dunn & Mr. Moriarty



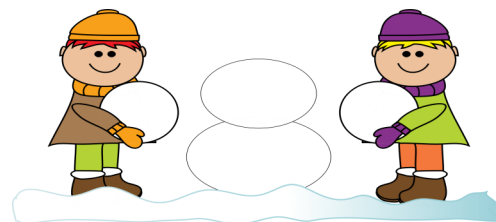
SWIS Support

Swanson Road Intermediate School Counselors understand that sometimes our students have significant friendship struggles both in and outside of school. Most often, home is their safe space to discuss these issues with those they love and trust. Talk with your child regularly about friendships, you are their first line of communication and we are in addition to. Use audio stories, books, and your personal experiences as conversation starters to point out what good and healthy friendships do and do not look like. Below are some suggested Do's and Don't during conversations:

Don't	Do
Try to fix the problem	Listen to your child without judgment and
Force your child to stay with or change	Ask open-ended questions to learn more
Assume your child is always the victim	Show empathy
Minimize hurtful comments	Ask what kind of help they need from you
Bad talk the friend	Brainstorm together

Are you interested in more parenting tips & tricks? - Please take a look at <https://biglifejournal.com/> for some great resources. You can even sign up for their newsletters on their website.

Be well,
SWIS Counseling Team



News from the Reading Room

It is hard to believe that November has ended. We are just concluding all of our Literacy Month activities. We encouraged all students to participate in these events. We had buddy reading, dressing as an idiom, and a character head project. Many students turned in fabulous projects that were on display at Literacy Night. We had a tremendous turn out and would like to thank all the families who attended. Wishing everyone a fabulous holiday season!

Diane Saad & Stacy Bergeron
Reading Specialists



Technology News

As we move into a new trimester, SWIS students will put their coding skills to the test! We will be learning the main principles of coding, including algorithms, loops, conditionals, and events. Students across all grade levels will have the opportunity to create games and animations using Scratch and code.org. Congratulations to our STEM/Tech students of the month so far this year, Tessa Racicot (September), Aiden Monahan Soto (October), and Rita Byrnes (November). Fantastic work!

Art News from Mrs. Bieksha

The “**Artist of the Month**” for December is **LIAM O'BRIEN!** Liam is a fifth-grade student from Mrs. Forgues' class. He is an extremely talented artist who pays great attention to detail in his artwork. It has been exciting to watch Liam's art skills develop since he first entered the art room at SWIS as a third-grader. Liam is a creative student who is a pleasure to have in the art room!

Congratulations to Liam!!

SWIS Calendar at a Glance



December				
12-3	Sunday		Girls On The Run 5K Race Lake Ave. Worcester	3-5
12-11-23	Monday		SWIS Grade 3 Winter Concert	4
12-11-23	Monday		Wreaths Across America	3-5
12-13-23	Wednesday		SWIS Grade 4 Winter Concert	3
12/15	Friday		SWIS Grad 5 Winter Concert	5