



# STEARNS SCOOP

December 2015

## From the Desk of the Principal



Dear Stearns Families,

It's hard to believe we are in December already! I guess time flies when you're having fun.

Last week we mailed out results from last year's PARCC exam. Our first experience with the exam was successful, but also showed that we have some areas to address. The particularly challenging piece of this exam is the many unknowns. We are currently using the information we have to create a plan aimed at addressing sub-skills, so students can approach the PARCC exam with confidence in the spring. Our main concern, as always, is providing the best, well-rounded curriculum we can for every student.

This time of year is certainly busy for families and is no different at school. Staff have planned several fun activities related to the holidays in addition to their regular curriculum. As in years past, students created ornaments for the Lee Bank Christmas Tree, our second grade visited Melbourne place to sing carols and make crafts, and several other classes are making cards for our elderly community members. Moreover, on December 22nd, our last day prior to the break, students will have a pajama day and participate in a school-wide reading of The Polar Express. I am proud to say community engagement and involvement remains a strength of our school.

As always, my door is open if you are in need of support leading to the holiday break. I'd like to wish all our families a healthy and safe holiday!

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Dean, Principal



## Traffic Issues



I would ask that families exercise caution and maintain patience during the drop-off and pick-up times to keep our kids safe.

Earlier this month, we had several issues with traffic during those drop-off and pick-up times, in particular, vehicles parking on the crosswalk, vehicles not stopping for people in the crosswalk, and others speeding and driving erratically in the parking lot.

In order to combat this, I have asked for additional police presence during arrival and dismissal times. In addition, if you see a vehicle being unsafe, please get the plate number and report it. I want our children to be safe!

Thank you!



## Important Dates to Note



**December 18** - SPED Classes to Berkshire Museum & Progress Reports sent home

**December 21** - School Council at 4:15 p.m. in Conference Room

**December 22** - Schoolwide Pajama Day

**December 23** - Winter Break Begins

**January 4** - First day back from Winter Break

# Student of the Month Winners

Congratulations to our Student of the Month winners so far this year!



**Tiffin Martin**

**Rachel Rathbun**

**Brady Mickle**

We are proud of you.  
Keep up the good work!!



## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Winter Trivia

1. True or False. It must be 32°F or colder for it to snow.
2. On average, one inch of rain is equivalent to how many inches of snow?
  - a. 10 inches
  - b. 1 inch
  - c. 5 inches
  - d. a foot
3. What is the difference between sleet, hail, and freezing rain?
4. Can it snow from clear skies?
5. What is more hazardous to trees and power lines?
  - a. One inch of wet snow
  - b. One inch of ice



#### Answers

1. False. It has been known to snow with temperatures in the mid 40's. Temperatures are below 32°F up in the clouds where the snow is forming.
2. a. 10 inches of snow melts down to about an inch of liquid rain
3. Hail is a chunk or stone of ice dropped from a thunderstorm. Sleet is frozen rain. Freezing rain is liquid rain that freezes to a surface such as the road or a tree.
4. Yes. Ice crystals sometimes fall from clear skies when temperatures are in the single digits or colder.
5. b. An inch of ice is heavier than wet snow.

# SAVE THE DATE

On Wednesday, January 13, the PTA will hold a dining to donate event at Patrick's Pub.

Your participation helps raise funds that enable us to support the students and teachers at Stearns in numerous ways.

Please save the date and tell your friends and family to do the same!

A flyer containing the details will be sent home after the first of the year.

## PTA Corner

*December Cash Calendar* – Have you gotten a call yet? Hopefully, if you bought a ticket or two (or more), you've been one of our lucky winners!! If not, don't worry, there's still lots of time left to win! I want to thank everyone who helped support this fundraiser!

*Movie Night* – I hope everyone enjoyed our annual movie night! The cafeteria was transformed into a movie theatre with sleeping bags, pillows and pajama-clad children enjoying Inside Out and munching on food sold by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.

*Scholastic Book Fair* – Our second book fair was another great success! Thank you to all the volunteers and happy reading to everyone who supported our fair with a purchase.

Happy Holidays! I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year! Thank you to everyone for supporting our various events and making Stearns the place to be!



The next PTA meeting is January 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Stearns' library. All are welcome to attend!