

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green and the needles are hard to pull from the branches.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water.
- Place candles where they will not be knocked over. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Many fires annually are caused by candles.
- Outdoor lights should be certified for outdoor use.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Keep holiday plants out of reach of children and pets – many are poisonous.
- Buy toys that age appropriate.
- Ornaments and other holiday decorations can be choking hazards. Some older ornaments may contain lead. Place any ornament that may be dangerous up high on the tree out of reach of little hands and pets.

Be safe and enjoy the holiday season.

Ski Program Information

Patty Weston, our ski program coordinator, would like to schedule a meeting with parent volunteers. If you are planning on helping out on one or more Fridays at Sugarbush, please contact her at 496-5785 or by email to westhillgardens@madriver.com.

As a reminder, if you need downhill equipment for your children, ski package rentals are available from Mountainside Ski Service starting at \$99. The phone number is 583-9299; ask for Brook Weston. For Cross Country skiers, there is no charge for equipment rental from Blueberry Lake Ski Center.

The Giving Tree

If you haven't already brought in your gifts for the Giving Tree please do so no later than Wednesday and put them in Fran's office. A big "thank you" to everyone who participated.

Important Dates for your calendars:

12/16	Tues	Holiday Concert 6:45
12/17	Weds	School Board Meeting 7:15
		Holiday Concert snow date
12/24	Weds	Start of December recess
1/5/09	Mon	Classes resume
1/19	Mon	School closed for MLK holiday
2/21-3/3		February vacation
3/3	Tues	Town Meeting Day



Meredith, as the Nutcracker, comments on Kristen's present, while Evan opens his. The performance, with a new set and all the costumes, is Tuesday evening at 6:45 pm.

REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gift Elf Collection

The Gift Elves will be stocking the Valley food shelf with food for holiday meals -- breakfasts with bacon, sausage, pancake mixes, real syrup, good cereals, coffee, and cocoa, and for dinner -- hams, roast beef, and good desserts. Our students will be conducting our annual coin collection. First and second graders will go from classroom to classroom collecting coins, third and fourth graders spend their recesses rolling the coins and the upper unit classes do the shopping. It is a great project. We hope you'll support it with your spare change and piggy banks.

Concert Fare

The PTO will be selling sandwiches, cider and brownies prior to the concert on the 16th. If you would be willing to make sandwiches or brownies or bring cider please let Laurie or Darcy Perreault-Acker know.



Vermont Dictionary Project agent Tom Stevens engages the third graders in a discussion of the importance of dictionaries. There are four rules for them: 1. Write your name in the book. 2. Look it up (words you don't know); 3. Check or highlight words you've looked up. 4. Write a "thank you" letter to the Rotary Club and/or the founder of the Dictionary Project.