



Grove Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. As we celebrate all of the many winter holidays this year, we are asking Grove Families to share a Family Photo with us to display on our front bulletin board. This is a great way for us to celebrate all of the many members in our Grove Family and learn a little more about our students. You can send in a photo for our display. You can also email a photo to Mrs. Newton at newtonju@unit5.org. This month's newsletter contains lots of important information about winter holiday activities, Young Authors Books, the parking lot, ways to stay healthy this winter, and more. Thank you very much for taking just a few moments to read through this information.

Thank you very much to all the parents that joined us as chaperones for our ISU field trip. What a wonderful day! See page 3 for some additional ISU information.

Just a reminder that we will be going outside for recess each day as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above with the windchill. Students are encouraged to wear coats, hats and gloves.

We are looking for a few additional Noon hour Supervisors. If you are interested, please call the main office. We are also collecting gently used school spirit wear for our CARING CLOSET. Please send in gently used, washed spirit wear to the office. Thank you!

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a safe and restful winter break!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Edwards

Important Dates

December

- 7 Half Day Early Dismissal 10:45**
- 19 Music Concert Grades K-2**
- 20 Winter Parties**
- 21 Last Day before Winter Break**
- 22 Winter Break Starts - NO SCHOOL**

January

- 8 No School-Teacher Institute**
- 9 School Resumes**
- 11 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.**
- 15 No School-Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**

**Our ATTENDANCE PHONE LINE is
309-557-4466**

**Please call by 8:30 if your child will be absent
or late to school.**

**If your child arrives after 7:45,
an adult MUST walk them in and
sign them in at the office.**

Holiday Season Activities

- Winter Music Program for Grades K-2 will be on December 19, 2023. The concert will take place at NCHS in the auditorium.
 - First Grade @ 5:30pm (arrival time is 5:15)
 - Kindergarten @ 6:30pm (arrival time is 6:15)
 - Second Grade @ 7:30pm (arrival time is 7:15)
- Winter Spirit Days
 - Monday, December 18— Holiday Shirt/Ugly Sweater Day
 - Tuesday, December 19— Red, Green, & White Day
 - Wednesday, December 20 — Hat/Crazy Hair Day
 - Thursday, December 21— Pajama Day
- Winter Parties — Wednesday, December 20
 - Kindergarten 10:30 - 11:30
 - First Grade 1:00 - 2:00
 - Second Grade 9:30 - 10:30
 - Third Grade 12:15 - 1:15
 - Fourth Grade 1:00 - 2:00
 - Fifth Grade 1:00 - 2:00

YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE!!!!

2023-2024 Grove School Yearbooks are on sale! Go to <https://book.hrimaging.com>, search for the school name, enter your child's name, and proceed through the cart. The cost of the yearbooks are \$25 each.

Arrival and Dismissal Updates

With the weather getting colder, many more parents are driving their children to and from school. I have just a couple gentle reminders to keep our traffic lines moving efficiently. Please stay in one single line in the front during pick up. Do not move to the inside lane until you have your child and are ready to exit. Please pull up as far as possible. I know that some of our youngest students may have difficulty buckling themselves in. It is perfectly fine to pick up your child and then drive into the main parking lot to assist them with buckling. This way it does not hold up the line.

When you are leaving the parking lot and turning onto Shepard Road in both the AM and the PM -- YOU MUST TURN RIGHT. This is important for several reasons. Number one, it keeps the line moving. This is also important for safety, as we have had some very close calls when people have tried to turn left. We do not want anyone to get in an accident.

Kindness Snowballs

During the month of December, we are targeting Kindness at Grove Elementary. Each week there will be a target behavior related to kindness. This week we focused on using kind words. We have a behavior incentive involving paper snowballs. There are class rewards for different amounts of snowballs. Be sure to ask your child how many snowballs their class has already! I have also included a Kindness Calendar for the month of December on the back of this newsletter. This gives daily ideas of kind things to do.

It's Young Authors Time!!!!

We will be participating in the Young Authors program, which is a statewide program that is endorsed by the Illinois Reading Council. The students will be encouraged to write, illustrate, and edit their own books. Once completed, these manuscripts are judged on originality, interest to children, creativity and overall quality.

If your child is interested in participating, we ask that you provide support and encouragement, but that you allow your child to do all of the work. Children take such great pride in authoring their own books and gain confidence in the process. Finished manuscripts can be either handwritten or typed. These are due to school on Wednesday, January 24th.

If you are concerned about the legibility of your child's writing, you may certainly type for them. Pictures can be hand drawn/colored, photographs, or computer generated images. You may bind the book in any way that you choose, but plan to include a cover and title page (and a dedication if the child would like to include one). Please note the following guidelines:

- Any genre is allowed
- Sturdy covers provide good protection for the manuscript
- All manuscripts are due to the school by **January 24, 2024**

We look forward to seeing the amazing work that our authors will produce. School winners will be announced the week of February 26, 2024. We will host a celebration assembly for all of our authors. If you have questions, please contact your teacher.

ISU Basketball Tickets

ISU is offering \$1 tickets to the Men's Basketball game vs Murray State on Dec 3rd at 2pm as a thank you for joining them on Education Day!

- Visit www.goredbirds.com/promotions
- Enter the promo code "EDUDAY"
- Select your seat!

PTO News

The PTO will be sponsoring SCRIP this holiday season. This is a service that allows families to purchase different gift cards in the same spot. This means no driving around to several places to get your holiday gift cards. Here is the link to the SCRIP info on the PTO site...

[PTO SCRIP Gift Card Fundraiser](#)

- Orders will be due to the office by Noon, December 7.
- Checks should be made payable to Grove Elementary PTO.
- Pickup will be the week of December 18 in the office, between 9am-2:30pm (or whatever works best for you!).

We are still in need of a few parent volunteers for our winter parties. A couple classes do not have a lead parent yet. Mrs. Kauten and Mrs. Gillespie are looking for that lead parent that wants to join us in making the winter parties wonderful! Please sign up if you are interested in a lead or supporting role for your child's classroom.

[Room Parent Sign-Up](#)

Attendance and Tardy Goals

We are doing much better with our attendance and tardies this year. Our goal for our daily rate of attendance is 95% and we are currently meeting that goal. As the weather has gotten colder, I am noticing more students rushing in around 7:45. Please make sure students arrive by 7:40 so they can be in class on time. I will be following the district policy and sending out attendance and tardy letters to students that have missed more than 10% of the school year so far. Today we announced the winners of our NO TARDY NOVEMBER INCENTIVE. Congratulations to Jace G., Connor D., Ryan S., Selah J., Zola T., and Colton S.!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to be here on time every day in November!