



Pierce School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This week Pierce School students have the incredible opportunity to participate in the New Hampshire Dance Institute (NHDI). Jeannie Connelly from the ConVal Arts Integration Program booked five days with NHDI, which will culminate in a school wide performance on Friday, February 5th at 5:30pm. We hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating the students' newly developed dance skills!

The mission of NHDI is to nurture the physical, social, and cultural development of children through dance, music, and performance. This year's residency program, which is entitled "Message in the Music," provides daily dance classes and explores the theme of communication. NHDI offers students an arts-infused, content rich experience that the students are sure to enjoy.

Important Notes

- Please read *Voting Days at Pierce School* and *Winter Benchmark Assessments*, which can be found on the back of this newsletter.
- The deadline for completing and submitting the *Pierce School Parent Survey* has been extended to this Friday, February 5th. Copies of the survey can be found in the school's lobby. You can also complete the survey online by going to the Pierce School website. A link to the survey can be found at the bottom of the school's homepage. We value your thoughts and feedback.

Sincerely,
Ann Allwarden

Weather Artwork
by
Ms. Sutton's 3rd Graders



Pierce School

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Mark your calendars:

February 1-5

NHDI; National School
Counselor Week

February 3

Town Meeting @ 6:30pm

February 5

Report Cards Go Home
NHDI Performance @
5:30pm

100 Day

February 6

District Meeting @ 10am

February 9

Voting Day

February 11

Community Supper @
5:30pm

PTO Meeting @ 6:15pm

February 12

School Assembly @ 2:45pm
Presenters: Grades K, 2, & 4

February 17

Invention Convention @ 5pm

February 22-26

Winter Recess

Feb. 29-March 4

Pierce Book Fair

March 2

Literacy Night 5:30-7pm

Upcoming Voting Days at Pierce School

On Tuesday, February 9th and Tuesday, March 8th members from the Bennington community will be coming to Pierce School to vote. As a result, students will stay mainly in the classroom wing of the building, which is where they spend most of their days on regular school days. Changes for voting day will include having Art (2/9) and Health (3/8) either in the library, the computer room, or the classroom. Students will also eat their lunch in the classroom. We are still planning on students



having recess outside. We will increase the adult supervision of recess time, including having one person stationed by the parking lot. Community members will be

using the parking lot and entering and exiting Pierce School through the doors leading directly into the multipurpose room. There will also be someone stationed in the school's lobby. Please know that the staff at Pierce School have coordinated this day with the town to ensure that students' educational experience is not interrupted. If you have any questions about this day, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Allwarden by phone (588-2131) or email (aallwarden@conval.edu).

Winter Benchmark Assessments

Students recently completed the AIMSweb winter benchmark assessments. Information about your child's performance on these assessments will be sent home with report cards. As many of you probably already know, these assessments will be administered again in the spring. Administering fall, winter, and spring benchmark assessments helps both parents/guardians and teachers to better understand and monitor your child's learning throughout the school year.

Furthermore, these assessments are used diagnostically by teachers to decide what skills and knowledge to prioritize when working with your child. Following the administration of AIMSweb, grade level teachers meet to review the results from these assessments. During this meeting, teachers analyze each child's performance in order to identify key areas of strength and need. Information gathered from this analysis directly informs the instruction that teachers offer your child. Our goal is to

tailor the instruction provided to your child in such a way that it maximizes their levels of learning and achievement.

While the information from these assessments is used to inform all aspects of the instruction provided to your child, it particularly informs and influences the instruction provided to your child during small group time and W.I.N. time. Throughout the school day, lessons are often structured to include both whole group and small group time. Whole group time is used to introduce new--or review precisely taught--concepts and skills. Following whole group instruction, classes often divide into small groups. During small group time, teachers have the opportunity to offer carefully targeted instruction that focuses on exactly what your child needs. This targeted instruction also extends into your child's W.I.N. time.

W.I.N. stands for What I Need. W.I.N. is a 30 minute block of time each day that provides your child with additional instruction and practice opportunities

that are tailored and targeted to meet the specific learning needs of your child. There are four W.I.N. cycles during the school year.

Because our goal is to offer highly targeted, differentiated instruction, we involve as many adults as possible. Pierce School even has the opportunity to submit an application to the central district office requesting additional support. There are three highly trained reading paraprofessionals that travel across the district helping out with W.I.N. time. Therefore, during W.I.N. time, your child may work with the classroom teacher or another teacher in the building. Also, W.I.N. time instruction for your child may take place in your child's classroom or another room within the building. Once again our goal is to tailor the instruction provided to your child in such a way that it maximizes their levels of learning and achievement.