



December 2017 Newsletter

Santa's Workshop

Santa's Workshop will be in operation in the mornings of December 4-7, 2017. Items cost \$1. Please send all money for this in the marked envelope with your child's name and the amount of money enclosed along with the gift list. Checks can be made to Route 40 PTO. All gifts will be placed inside gift bags with the recipient's name on the outside.

Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting will be December 12, 2017. For more information, go to <https://www.garrettcountyschools.org/boe/news>.

Lego League

Second, third, fourth and fifth grades have been working on presentations for the Hydro Dynamics challenge for Lego League. Grades 4 and 5 will be competing at Northern High School on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The competition starts at 9:00 and continues until around 3:00 but the morning sessions are closed to the public. Second and third grade will be set up to share their research project. Please come out and support our students starting with Opening Ceremonies at 12:15.

Christmas Program

Our Christmas program will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 with a snow day of December 20. We will have two identical performances so we have enough room for all of our guests. You are welcome to attend at 9:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Hickory Open House

An open house will be hosted at the Hickory Environmental Education Center on Thursday, December 7, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hickory is located behind Northern High and

Northern Middle School. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the celebration.

Noon Dismissal

There will be a noon dismissal on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. Our teachers will spend the afternoon looking at the reading standards and affirming the alignment of the instruction. This will help us to make sure students are learning the content in a manner that makes sense with the order of skills.

13th Annual Storybook Holiday

The annual Storybook Holiday event for children sponsored by the FSU Children's Literature Centre will take place in downtown Frostburg this Saturday, December 2, 2017. There will be a parade on Main Street, crafts, letters to Santa, pictures with the elves at City Place, trolley rides and more. Our students have designed window displays that can be found at City Place. For more information, email clc@frostburg.edu or call 301-687-3133.

Greenhouse

Thanks to the help of Lynette Harrison, our greenhouse is operational. Our students have planted a variety of winter crops including peas, red beets and varieties of lettuce. Fourth graders are the keepers of the greenhouse and are monitoring the growth and temperatures. We are watering daily and using rocks as a source of heat. The rocks are brought in daily to warm and then placed back in the greenhouse in the afternoon to release the heat they absorb through the day. We hope to incorporate the crops into the lunch program.

Chickens and Jingles

The chickens and Jingles are all snug in their tractor for the winter. We have added water heaters, a lamp, and extra pine shavings to prepare them for the cold weather. Pre-K and Kindergarten are the Poultry Farmers. They have been charting egg production the temperatures of the outdoors to add to the data so students can hypothesize what is the cause of decreased production.

Love and Logic Tip Does Praise Create Pain?

Why do so many adults, from so many varied walks of life, say the same thing about praise? “It backfires with a lot of kids. Their behavior actually gets worse after receiving it.”

What is “Praise”?

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “Praise” means, “to express a favorable judgment of: commend.”

Examples from daily life include:

- Super job!
- You are so bright.
- Way to go!

Two Types of Praise

Spontaneous

This type comes from sincere excitement over something a child has done. Most of the time, I encourage people to relax and allow this type to happen.

Intentional

This type is done by good-hearted people for the express purpose of shaping behavior. This type is the most likely to backfire.

An Alternative: Notice and Describe

In this week’s **blog** I also describe three reasons why intentional praise can create pain for some children. For the purposes of this brief tip, let’s simply look at an alternative to praise.

Notice and describe the behavior without judging it.

Examples:

- I noticed that you finished the assignment even though it was challenging.
- You did all of your chores without being reminded. How does that feel?
- I noticed that you kept your cool when those kids were teasing you. What was that like for you?
- I noticed that you spent a lot of time today helping your little brother.
- You completed nine out of ten correctly. I imagine that feels really good.

If praise seems to be making things worse with a child you know, experiment with these ideas. The underlying message sent to the child will be:

I love you unconditionally.

You don’t have to earn my love, and you can’t lose it.

You get to decide how you feel about your accomplishments.

Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible.

Dr. Charles Fay

December Events

- 2 Storybook Holiday in Frostburg
- 4-7 Santa’s Workshop
- 6 Noon Dismissal
Midterm Reports Come Home
- 7 Hickory Open House 5-7 p.m.
- 8 Last Day for Coins for Caring
- 10 Lego League Competition at Northern High School
- 12 Board of Education Meeting
- 13 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Christmas Program
- 14 Pre-K and K to Oakland – Polar Express Trip
- 15 Grades 4-5 to Hickory
- 18 All grades to Hickory
- 20 Christmas Program Snow Date
- 22 Noon Dismissal
North Pole Visit
- 25- 1 Christmas Vacation