



# CROCKER CHRONICLES

**December 23, 2011**

Dear Crocker Farm Families,

Firstly, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable December break. We have our last day of school for 2011 this Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> (a regular, full day) and we return to school on Tuesday January 3, 2012.

This past Monday we held our annual Talent Show. Our students sang, danced, juggled soccer balls, played a wide array of instruments, and generally kept us all enthralled for over an hour. Our audience was similarly spectacular, behaving impeccably throughout the show. Bravo to our event organizers (Mr. Prather, Mr. Silverstone, and Ms. Geffert) and to everyone involved in making the show happen.

I hope that all of you are excited for the impending vacation. My family and I fully intend to get outside as much as possible next week, making sure we find time for a little touch football, a walk around Puffer's Pond, perhaps a bike ride up town (weather permitting) and possibly even a last trip to the top of Bear Mountain. I think the opportunity to be outside during daylight hours will be beneficial to all of us. Hopefully I will see you some on you on your outdoor travels.

Now, having said that, I also know that my family and I are also looking forward to a much earned seat on the couch with hot chocolate, a tasty cookie and a nice book, magazine or newspaper in hand. I do think it is critical that we all read during the vacation time. At least thirty minutes a day seems doable and most certainly valuable.

Best wishes for the beginning of 2012.

Sincerely,

Derek Shea  
Assistant Principal

**IMPORTANT DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**  
**December 26 thru January 2- Holiday Break- No School**  
**January 3- Back to School!!**



# CROCKER CHRONICLES

**23 de diciembre de 2011**

Queridas Familias de Crocker Farm,

En primer lugar, quiero tomar esta oportunidad para desearles a todos unos días festivos relajantes y tranquilos. Nuestro último día de escuela de 2011 es este viernes 23 de diciembre (es un día regular) y regresamos a la escuela el martes 3 de enero de 2012.

Este lunes pasado llevamos a cabo nuestro "Talent Show" anual. Nuestros estudiantes cantaron, bailaron, hicieron malabarismos con las bolas de fútbol, jugaron una variedad de instrumentos, y en general nos mantuvieron a todos cautivados por una hora. Nuestra audiencia fue igual de impecable, comportándose muy bien durante el espectáculo. Bravo a los organizadores del evento (Sr. Prather, Sr. Silverstone, y la Sra. Geffert) y a todos los envueltos en la realización del espectáculo.

Espero que todos estén emocionados por los días festivos a venir. Yo y mi familia saldremos lo más posible la semana próxima, asegurándonos de tener tiempo para jugar un poco de fútbol, una caminata a Puffer's Pond, quizás correr la bicicleta hasta la ciudad (si el clima lo permite) y posiblemente un último viaje a la cima de Bear Mountain. Yo pienso que la oportunidad de salir a fuera durante el día será beneficiosa para todos. Es probable que vea a algunos de ustedes en sus pequeñas excursiones a fuera.

Habiendo dicho esto, también sé que mi familia y yo esperamos poder sentarnos en el sofá con un chocolate caliente, una galleta sabrosa y un buen libro, revista o periódico en la mano para un buen merecido descanso. Pienso que es crítico que nos mantengamos leyendo durante las vacaciones. Por lo menos treinta minutos al día parece manejable y definitivamente valioso.

Mis mejores deseos para el comienzo del 2012.

Sinceramente,

Derek Shea  
Asistente de Principal



## Latest Highlights from the Music Room

**Kindergarten** students created motions with their bodies, with rhythm sticks and stuffed animals to express the steady beat. They enjoyed playing the percussion instruments and played interactive singing games. One of these games includes “Peeling the Banana” and going under the “bridge” with a partner.

**First grade** students sang simple songs that contain the “half note.” They looked for the symbol of this note in the scores of the songs on the overhead projector screen and played them on the drums to accompany their singing of the Japanese song “Okina Taiko.” They also enjoyed playing the bells and performing movement activities designed to reinforce the feeling of learned rhythms.

**Second grade** students showed their understanding of the ABA form in the Slovakian folk song “The Kite” by creating motions that express the two beat feel (half notes) of the A section and the one beat feel (quarter notes) of the B section of the song. They started to sing two part songs and rounds such as “Every night” “Jake the dog” and “Scotland’s Burning.” and performed a Native American chant using rhythm sticks. Dances and games such as “Alabama Gal” “Down in the Valley” and “Les Salutes” help students to understand learned concepts of “Fermata,” “Steady Beat” and build social skills.

**Third grade** students accompanied their singing of the English round “Come Follow” by playing the C Major scale on the xylophones. They had fun singing the “Ghost Ship” song and dancing the Mexican “La Raspa” with a partner change at every turn. I heard a lot of beautiful solo voices as the students enthusiastically signed up to enact the French ballad “Three Drummer Boys.” The recorder program now is at a point when the classes finally sound great together as students play the melodies built on the three notes they learned so far.

**Fourth grade** students experienced and discussed changing time signatures through reading and singing the Danish folk song “Good Morning” and performing movements using scarves to the recording of a folk tune, “Danish Masquerade.” Mr. A. the student teacher taught the students to chant the list of “50 States That Rhyme.” This rap cleverly lists the states in alphabetical order and puts them in a rhyme so students can recite them to a lively beat.

**Fourth and Fifth grade** students sang and played the “Echo Song” on the xylophones and danced the American novelty dance “Count 64.”

**Fifth and sixth grade** students have been focusing on playing instruments. Mr. A. first taught a fun three part chant, “Clean up your Room,” that the students also performed later without speaking on the instruments. They also enjoyed playing traditional instruments to accompany their singing of the Brazilian song “La Conga” playing the xylophone part to the famous pop song, “The Lion Sings Tonight.” As a part of their study of syncopated rhythms **sixth grade** students sang the round “Rhythm and Syncopation” by Pat Shaw and performed it on the xylophones. The same classes did a great job performing the challenging dance “Mexican Mixer” with a partner change at each turn.

Mr. A. treated every class to a tuba demonstration that the children received with great enthusiasm. Crocker Chorus sounds great again this year and I am looking forward to upcoming performances.

Have a great Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Ms. Z.



# **Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration**

**The Crocker Farm Staff and PGO cordially  
invites you to a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's  
life and work.**

**We will honor Dr. King on Friday, January 13th,  
at 1:30 PM in the Crocker Farm Auditorium, The snow date  
for this event is**

**Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.**

**Please join us!**

# **WANTED**

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**YOUR USED SKI & SNOWBOARD  
EQUIPMENT  
FOR  
THE AMHERST LIONS CLUB  
GIANT  
SKI & SNOWBOARD SWAP  
at the  
Crocker Farm Elementary School  
280 West Street., Amherst, MA 01002**

THE **LIONS CLUB** WILL ACCEPT FOR CONSIGNMENT & DONATION:  
SKI, SKI BOOTS, SNOWBOARDS & BOOTS,  
SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

**NO STRAIGHT SKIS**  
**NO SKI OVER 180 CM IN LENGTH (71 INCHES)**  
**NO CLOTHING OR ACCESSORIES**  
**LIMIT OF 5 ITEMS**  
ALL BINDINGS MUST BE ON THE CURRENT  
IDEMNIFICATION LIST  
NO OBSOLETE OR DAMAGED EQUIPMENT  
BOOTS MUST MEET DIN 7880 STANDARDS  
**NO DEALERS, PLEASE**

THIS IS AN 8 HOUR SALE  
**DROP OFF ITEMS**  
**FRIDAY, January 6<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-5pm *ONLY***  
**PICK-UP TIME**  
**SATURDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm *ONLY***  
**THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER!!**  
New and used equipment will be available during sale hours  
FRIDAY, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm  
SATURDAY, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm

Champions Night at Amherst Regional High School  
Friday, December 23 at 6:30pm  
2010 D1- State Finalists Amherst Regional Varsity Basketball  
VS.

2010 D1 Vermont State Champions Rice Memorial from Burlington VT

Free admission to all elementary school students when accompanied by an adult  
Special half time presentation for the three State finalist Amherst Girls teams from 2010  
(softball, tennis, basketball)

Come on down for this night of excitement and celebration of girls athletic!  
Not sponsored by Crocker Farm



**ABSENT LINE:** Parent/Guardians are required to call the absentee line, 362-1659 if your child will not be in school. If your child is tardy to school, please have him/her stop by the office for a pass before going to class. **Call before 9:00 to avoid getting an automated phone call.**

**Linea para reporter ausencias:** Se les require a todos los padres/encargados que se comuniquen con la escuela llamando al telefono 362-1656 si su hijo(a) va a estar ausente. Si su hijo(a) va a llegar tarde a la escuela por favor asegurese que su hijo (a) se reporta a la oficina primero.

**SAFETY:**

- Please enter and exit through the **main entrance** during the school hours, 8:30-3. All doors will be locked from 9-2:45, including the main entrance.
- All visitors/parents entering the building are required to stop into the main office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. **DO NOT** go directly to your child's room. We will be happy to assist you!
- If your child will be taking an alternate route home please send a note to inform the teacher otherwise they will go home their regularly scheduled route. **NO EXCEPTIONS**