

Warsaw Middle School

From the Principal:

December, 2011

Holiday Greetings,

I am reminded, as this holiday season is upon us, that this time of year can bring stress for many families. A change of routine, an increase in costs due to cold weather and other expenses, and young children at home without supervision all can create challenges that make it hard for our students to adjust well to leaving or returning to school. As such, please remember that the more structure you can provide the smoother the transitions for everyone. "Parents Still Make the Difference!" suggests the following:

Write: Your child may receive gifts during the break. It is often said that writing a thank-you note is a lost art. Why not have your child revive it? S/he could write a short note to anyone who sends a gift or extends kindness. S/he could also write a letter of cheer to friends or family s/he won't see during break.

Read: Your child should continue reading something every day. (WMS has a 25 book goal.) If s/he has a book s/he is enjoying, great. Otherwise, a magazine or newspaper article of interest works, too. Online, s/he can check for blogs about things s/he is interested in. For his/her safety, make sure you know what s/he is reading online.

Do math: Ask your child to help you add up the day's expenditures or stick to your budget while shopping. (And don't forget about Moby Math or those Alek accounts for our Algebra students.)

Keeping some simple structure in place may help to relieve some stress for your son or daughter. And, if there is something we can do for you, please don't hesitate to ask.

Other important information:

What is the difference between School Messenger and Infinite Campus?

- **School Messenger** is our method of alerting parents of emergencies (such as emergency evacuations), school-wide news and upcoming events. *You do not need to set up an account for this but you can ask to be taken off the list.*
- **Parent Portal** allows you access to your child's grades, attendance and other information. You must sign up for this. *31% of our parents have already signed up! Good for you. If you need help, contact Sue Ross at Warsaw Middle School.*



Coats & Toys for Kids

The 7th & 8th Grade JMG Project Reach students are collecting donations for the annual statewide Coats & Toys for Kids campaign for the Salvation Army!

Donations may be delivered to Warsaw Middle School from Dec 1 – Dec 16. Coats may be new or lightly used, and toys need to be new and unwrapped.

All donations will help make a brighter holiday for Maine kids!

~ Kristen Gilbert, Principal

Important Dates to Remember:

November	30:	Practice Evacuation
December	5:	School Board Meeting
	7:	Early Dismissal at 12:35PM
	9:	Mid 2 nd Quarter
	14:	Progress reports home Holiday Concert – 7PM
16 – January	2:	Winter Break