



ALLEN SCHOOL'S E-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

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Principal's Message

The arrival of December marks a time for holidays and celebrations. I encourage you to focus during this season, on the importance of tradition. Traditions ground us as families and bind us together, marking milestones, accomplishments, the passage of time, and the gathering of family and friends for special occasions. Traditions are the cornerstone of childhood memories and the holidays offer an opportunity to share meaningful experiences from your past and memories of fun filled times enjoyed by previous generations. It is a time when we can share with our children how much we cherish family.

In the hustle, bustle of our hectic lives, it is important to take the time to share family traditions that we hope to pass on to our children, from the ways we celebrate holidays, to favorite recipes and foods, to simple daily habits that promote togetherness. We want our children to appreciate family values and the importance of family histories. We also want them to understand how much they are loved and how important it is to cherish those childhood memories that are so critical to their growth.

You may also want to start new traditions with your family. Remember your fondest childhood memories and try to build on those. Talk with your child about creating some new moments to remember. They can be very simple activities- sledding on a favorite hill as a family, roasting marshmallows in the fireplace, or decorating the dinner table together to celebrate a special family meal. Before the holiday rush is upon us, try talking to your child about what he or she remembers and most enjoyed from past years. You may be surprised at the simplicity of the response.

You do not have to recreate holiday traditions. You can reinvent your own set of family traditions. The holidays offer a perfect opportunity to refocus and build upon what you already have. Even the simplest rituals can offer comfort and security to your child. I encourage you to take time to enjoy the spirit of the season!

On behalf of our Allen School family, a big thank you goes out to the MEF (Medford Education Foundation) for their generous gift toward the purchase of the Color Printer in the Computer Lab and the H.S.A. for their \$5000.00 donation that we just received. This will be used toward the purchase of a new sound system and additional technology equipment.

I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season and all the best in the New Year!

Christine G. Pukenas
Principal

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Winter Break
Dec. 24th to
Jan. 2nd

Just a Reminder:



Please send students to school with winter jackets, hats, and gloves/mittens. Children will be going outside for recess during the cold weather days unless there is snow on the ground or an unsafe wind chill condition.

Contact Information:

Mrs. Christine Pukenas
Principal

Mrs. Mary Ann Condi
Secretary

Mrs. Mary Kondracki
Nurse

Dr. Deborah Haggett
Guidance

School Phone:
609-654-4203

If you know your party's ext.	Press 1
Office	Press 2
Nurse	Press 3
Guidance	Press 4
Media Ctr.	Press 5
Absence Line	Press 6
Allen Info.	Press 7
District Office	609-654-6416

The Season of Giving!

<http://www.familyeducation.com/article/0,1120,1-20611,00.html>
 (Great article)

The holiday season is upon us and for many it can be a very stressful time. It is important to show children that the holiday season is a joyous and fulfilling time that doesn't revolve around shopping. It may seem hard, but it is important to emphasize the true meaning of the holidays: giving. By starting early with holiday traditions that emphasize thoughtful gestures and the giving of oneself, you can change your child's perspective of the holiday season and truly make it a holiday that they will always remember!

Teaching Children to Give of Themselves

<http://childrentoday.com/resources/articles/spirit.htm>

- ✓ **Visit a Children's Hospital.** "Make some hot chocolate and marshmallows, bring your favorite holiday story, and schedule a visit at a children's hospital. Taking the time for your family to visit an organization that deals with reading to displaced children who are there for the holidays can remind everyone of the true spirit of the season. Dressing in character or making props or a set to present the story as a play leaves a dramatic impression that stays with your children and your audience."
- ✓ **Adopt a Grandparent.** "Many people in their golden years feel displaced or forgotten at the holidays. Spending time to hear their traditions, share stories and enjoy holiday treats together spreads some heartwarming holiday cheer. Your family also may learn some insightful facts about holiday traditions from different cultures, religions and generations."
- ✓ **Volunteer at a Soup Kitchen/Shelter.** Volunteer your family's time at a soup kitchen/shelter. Gather small-size toiletries, such as toothpaste and shampoo, and pack them in decorated gift bags to take to a homeless shelter. Deliver canned food to a food bank. Volunteer your time and goods at an animal shelter.
- ✓ **Give of yourself, not money.** "It's important that children understand that charitable acts do not always mean donating money. Suggest that your children give of themselves by bestowing their time, talents or treasures as gifts this season." For example, for each night of Hanukkah or while you are marking off the days until Christmas, children can do good deeds around the house such as helping their brothers or sisters with homework. They can also assist their neighbors with leaves or snow removal.

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Upcoming Events at Allen School

December is packed full of great happenings at Allen! [Here are just a few events that are coming up!](#)

- **2nd Grade's Alex's Lemonade Stand—Dec. 1 and 2nd**
- **Funny Hair/Hat Day—Dec. 9th**
- **Papa John's Pizza Day—Dec. 9th**
- **Winter Break—Dec. 23rd (half day) to Jan 2nd**

[Check out the 2005-2006 Allen School Calendar for a complete listing of all activities throughout the year!](#)

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**Emergency
Closing Number:
668**

[click here for 2
hr. delay info.](#)

All in a Gator's Day!

Great Gator Happenings in the classroom! [Disclaimer](#)

Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making Gingerbread houses in December!• Writer's Workshop will officially begin!• Review of the senses with Gingerbread
1st Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studying Habitats• Holidays Around the World-Social Studies Unit focusing on other country's traditions• Light and Sound Science Unit
2nd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Became Nature Spies! Studied nature and made animal tracks booklet in the computer lab• Studied and grew plants• Making Gingerbread houses in December!
3rd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studying Native Americans• Completed a reading unit called Community Ties• Working on Personal Narratives in Writer's Workshop
4th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Had a blast at the Art Night and enjoyed their visit to the Philadelphia Art Museum.• Rotation of Science Classes has begun• Ask Testing Preparation is underway.• Writer's Workshop Genre theme is Persuasive Writing.
5th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoyed their two field trips:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ben Franklin in the Kimmel Center - Bouncing to the music.○ Visited the Egyptian exhibit at the U of Penn museum – The mummies and sphinx were awesome!• Learned a lot about Veterans Day ... Wonderful job writing essays! Hats off to the two essay contest winners!• Warmed up to Thanksgiving Day by having a little feast.• Hallway display – How we spent our thousand dollars!

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What's New on Allen's Website?

The Allen School website changes often! Make sure you check it daily!

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- [**4th Grade Art Night pictures; Favorite Team/Sports Pictures; 5th Grade Veteran's Day Essay Contest Winners!**](#)
- [**The Counselor's Corner: Making the Holidays Less Materialistic; Act of Kindness Tree; Clifford's Big Idea: Help Others; New Family Tradition: Community Service**](#)
- [**December Lunch Menu: The lunch menu for December has now been posted!**](#)
- [**Nurse's Page: Healthy gift ideas; The Story of Stress; Mission Nutrition Game; Food Poem Puzzle**](#)
- [**Media Center: Award Winning Author, Elizabeth Winthrop, will visits Allen! Check out the photos! Book Fair Update!**](#)
- [**Computer Lab: Check out the Jeopardy PowerPoint Games made in Computer Club!**](#)
- [**Art Room: December's Artist of the Month and Picasso Activities!**](#)

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Fun and Educational Sites for Kids

These are some of our kid's favorite sites and they are educational, too. Shh!!! Don't tell them! [Disclaimer](#)

- [**Whomp! \(Grades 2-5\) Earn the title of "King of the Monsters" at this great game by Family Education. Kids choose a monster identity and then they compete with another monster to make the most words in three minutes. But, there are some rules! You can only choose words that are next to each other or diagonal to each other on their keyboard and the longest words get the most points!**](#)
- [**Learning Blocks: Base Ten Game \(Grades K-3\) This great game by Learning Blocks will give your child great practice in learning big numbers using skinnies, bits, and flats!**](#)
- [**Build a Fish \(Grades 3-5\) This is another great site from the Shedd Aquarium! In "Build a Fish" you create a fish by choosing its tail, body, mouth, and color. Then you release your fish into the amazing reef! Can you avoid predators and find enough food before you are dinner?**](#)
- [**You Are The Historian: Investigating the First Thanksgiving \(Grades 4-5\) We just celebrated Thanksgiving, but how much do you know about the very first Thanksgiving? At this REALLY COOL site, learn about the myths of the first Thanksgiving, read primary sources, listen to audio of experts, and then share what you know by creating a picture. This is really an A++ site!**](#)
- [**Collage Machine \(All Grades\) This is a great artistic site**](#)



from the National Gallery of Art. Choose from a selection of pictures and place them on the paper to create a collage. You can change the size of the pictures, flip and turn the pictures, and even make them transparent. For collage ideas, check out the auto button and add to them to create your own! Also try, [Collage Machine 2](#)

[For more fun links and resources click here!](#)

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