

Holiday Reminders

Winter Break: Friday, December 23 - Friday, January 6th
School Resumes Monday, January 9th!

The last day of school prior to Winter Break is Thursday, December 22nd. Students and staff will have from Friday, December 23rd to Friday January 6th off for Winter Break. School will resume at 8:40 a.m. on Monday, January 9th!

Students Exchanging Gifts At School

As the holidays come upon us, we often have students who want to give a gift to a special friend at school. **Gift giving between students should only occur when it is part of a teacher directed and approved holiday gift exchange.**

When certain students exchange gifts with friends at school, someone is always disappointed or feels left out because they did not receive a gift and/or did not have a gift to exchange. This disappointment often becomes an issue in the classroom, lunch and/or recess environment. *The staff of Amberly request all gifts given to a specific friend(s) are exchanged outside of the school environment.*

Ski Club Begins Tuesday, January 10th!

We have had a great response to families joining Ski Club this year. Bus transportation is provided for students in grades 4 & 5 who have signed up for this transportation at the initial Ski Club meeting. ***ALL STUDENTS IN THE AMBERLY SKI CLUB ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR SKI HELMETS WHILE SKING!!*** *If you missed the initial ordering of ski helmets at school via Bronson Hospital and Safe Kids Kalamazoo please contact Bronson Hospital regarding purchasing helmets at a discount rate directly through them. The website for this is: <http://www.safekidskalamazoo.org/>*

The Ski Club will go to Timber Ridge every Tuesday from January 10th to March 7th (weather permitting).

Morning Notification of School Closing

When Portage Public Schools cancels school due to weather conditions or other emergencies, news media is notified by 6:00 a.m. Parents/Guardians will receive a Robo Call also from our automated phone system. ***Families may also call the Portage Public Schools "School Closing Hotline" at 323-6800*** for updates on school closure information. A message is recorded and updated at the same time news media is notified of closures. **Please note: Anytime the district cancels classes due to severe weather, all afternoon and evening activities in all Portage Public School elementary buildings are also canceled.**

WINTER SAFETY REMINDERS!

As winter, snow and SNOW PILES have arrived we request that you review our shared expectations for pick up, bus and walking-to-school behaviors with your children. First and foremost, **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO CLIMB ON SNOW HILLS BY PARKING LOTS AT ANYTIME!** This is a safety concern for falls & accidents with icy, snow and slipper boots.

Please remind your children that while waiting for the school bus they are to arrive 5 minutes before the scheduled stop. Children are to wait in a group at least 10 feet away from the edge of a roadway

Walkers need to stay on the designated route and be polite to the neighbors on their way to school. Children should not talk to strangers along the way. **It is tempting when we are all gathered together to play and rough house but remind your children that not all drivers are watching for children.** Encourage your son or daughter to create a safe environment by not running or chasing others. **All elementary students know that snowballs are not permitted....not even at the bus stop or on the way to school.**

Whenever possible we encourage parents to help at bus stops. Your presence helps to create a safer environment and is a great way for our children to start their day.

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