

All Around AES

The (mostly) weekly newsletter from AES

Our mission: Exceptional instruction without exception

December 2, 2015

Calendar

Dec 8	Gr 1 ice skating on Boston Common (rescheduled)
Dec 8	Gr 4 to SEE Science Center
Dec 10	Pre-K & ISN to Collins Center for The Nutcracker
Dec 14	Gr 3 to Senior Center 11:15 – 12:45
Dec 15	Gr 2 to North Shore Music Theater
Dec 22	Caroling in the Millyard (Grades 1 – 4) 2:00 pm



Christmas vacation begins at the end of the day on December 22. School reopens on January 4.

Principally Speaking

Waiting is something that is very hard to do, especially in our everything-in-an-instant society. With a push of a button you can print a photo, post a video, or download a novel. Children have always wanted things immediately and now, thanks to technology, they can have it! Gone are the days when you would mail in the proof-of-purchase from three boxes of cereal for a toy that would arrive two months later. Unfortunately this means that opportunities to learn and practice patience are also in short supply.

Despite all of the rushing around for shopping and celebrations, December is a time of waiting. We wait for family traditions to unfold. We wait for visits with friends and family whom we don't get to see as often as we would like. We wait for days to grow longer, minute by minute, after the winter solstice. We wait to celebrate the New Year, with all its hopes and dreams.

As we move through December this year, I encourage you to keep the lines of an old Simon and Garfunkel song in your head: *Slow down, you move too fast. You got to make the morning last. Just kicking down the cobble stones. Looking for fun and feelin' groovy.* Look for and create quiet times for you and your family; moments when you can share the wonder of the season. Give a gift of time together when you can just wait quietly. Consider a countdown calendar of some type, not for purpose of checking off the days as they fly by but as a tool to show that good things can come to those who wait...patiently.

On a similar note – our school theme for December and January is Generosity – caring and sharing. One visible sign of this is our Pack the Presents food drive that will take place this month. I hope that every child is able to contribute at least one item to the boxes in our school lobby!

