

# December 2020

## FALCON FOCUS NEWSLETTER



### From the Principal

#### Growth Mindset Quote of the Month

*The real fault is to have faults and not to amend them. (Confucius)*

Dear Forest Avenue Families,

Now that it is December, and we have been in school for over ten weeks, I am happy to report that our students and staff continue to impress me with their positive attitude, work ethic, and growth mindset. It is a delight to observe the learning that takes place during the hybrid and remote models. Thank you to everyone, including the parents, for making this happen.

As we operate under this “new normal”, we continue to move forward with important school wide initiatives such as the School Improvement Council, the Leaves of Citizenship, and Home & School family fun events. Recently, our 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan was approved by the School Committee. You can check out the document by visiting our website at [https://forestave.hudson.k12.ma.us/our\\_school/principals\\_corner](https://forestave.hudson.k12.ma.us/our_school/principals_corner). Our students have been working hard learning about the character trait of Fairness and soon we will be introducing them to Outstanding Citizenship. Our Home & School Association did a fabulous job bringing us together for the Pumpkin Parade in October. This month they will be presenting their next Family Fun Event, the Winter Wonderland Parade, which will be taking place on Friday, December 4th from 5:30– 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you then!

With Trimester I ending on November 23rd, report cards will be coming home soon. On Friday, December 11th students in Cohorts B and C will be bringing home report cards and they will be mailed out to students in Cohort D. Then on Monday, December 14th students in Cohort A will be coming home with their report cards. Parent Teacher Conferences will also be taking place in December on Wednesday the 16th from 8:20 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (no school for students) and on the evening of the 17th, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. More information on Parent Teacher Conferences will be coming soon.



Please be reminded that school will be closed for the holiday break from December 24th until January 4th. I hope that you and your family enjoy a restful and relaxing winter break and a very happy holiday season. Stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely, David Champigny  
Principal, Forest Avenue School



# School Nurse

## From the Nurse

**December**

It is hard to believe that December is here and 2021 is around the corner. This year, I am sure, will go down in history. I am hoping that 2021 will bring us a vaccine and our lives will return to normal....being optimistic.

I would like to welcome Jina Harvey, LPN who will be assisting in the health office and our medical room.

As the cold weather has arrived, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Recess and mask breaks will continue to be outside unless the temperature is below 23 degrees Fahrenheit with the wind chill factor. If assistance is needed in purchasing a winter coat and boots please contact me so that I can be of assistance.

Below is a statement from Massachusetts Department of Public Health that was released in August of 2020.

State public health officials announced that influenza immunization will be required for all children 6 months of age or older who are attending Massachusetts child care, pre-school, kindergarten, K-12, and colleges and universities. The new vaccine requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illnesses and the overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students are expected to have received a flu vaccine by December 31 for the 2020-2021 influenza season, in order to return to school in January, unless either a medical or a religious exemption is provided. Also exempted are K-12 students who are homeschooled and higher education students who are completely off-campus and engaged in remote learning only. This new flu immunization requirement is in addition to existing vaccine requirements. Elementary and secondary students in districts and schools that are using a remote education model are NOT exempt.

Thank you to those families who have already sent in their child's flu vaccine record.

Christie Vaillancourt RN BSN NCSN  
School Nurse  
cvaillancourt@hudson.k12.ma.us  
978-567-6190 EXT 23004  
978-567-6203 FAX

Jina Harvey LPN  
Assistant School Nurse  
jmharvey@hudson.k12.ma.us



# Cohort D Update

## December

Over the last few weeks, teachers in Cohort D have been excited about finding ways to use break out rooms. One grade 2 classroom used the break out rooms to hold friendship groups during lunch. This was a great way for students to see each other and chat, even in a remote setting. Other teachers are using the rooms to meet with reading groups. All of the Cohort D teachers are continually looking to expand the ways in which they use technology to better meet the needs of students in a remote setting. It has been quite a year of new learning for both staff and students!

If you would like to learn more about what Cohort D is up to, please check out the website. You will also find this link on all of the elementary school home pages.

<https://sites.google.com/student.hudson.k12.ma.us/cohortdelementary/home?authuser=0>

## Update from the Instructional Leadership Team

This year our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) has continue our work with a focus on our instructional practice of classroom conversations. The purpose of ILT is for our team to work collaboratively to improve student learning. Last year we chose to look at how to raise the level of classroom conversations. According to data collected by researcher John Hattie, increased classroom conversation has a high correlation with student achievement. This year we will continue with this focus while finding ways to support students who may be more reluctant to participate in these conversations. We will also look to examine how to increase conversation in our remote settings.

### December Calendar

12/4	A Frozen Winter Wonderland Lights Parade @ 5:30 p.m.
12/7	School Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
12/9	No School – Professional Development Day
12/12	Savers Fundraiser
12/14	December Birthday Lunch for Students in Cohorts A & C
12/16	Parent/Teacher Conferences (no school for students)
12/17	Evening Conferences (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
12/18	December Birthday Lunch for Students in Cohorts B
12/24 – 1/4	No School – December Break

# From the Home & School

## Virtual Home & School meeting for December is Cancelled

Due to scheduling conflicts, the H&S meeting for December has been cancelled. We will have our next meeting on Thursday, January 28th and will send out more information about that meeting in the next Newsletter!

## Save the Date: Savers Fundraiser December 12th



We will be collecting soft goods which include:

- Clothing and shoes (men's/women's/children's)
- Textiles (sheets/blankets/pillows/curtains/tablecloths)
- Accessories (hats/mittens/scarves/ties/socks/purses/wallets/bags/backpacks)

Please fill out the Google form if you plan to donate to help us estimate the amount of bags we will be delivering: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec49sjs0vgSiHugHmOS5NvIZcfQW3ls1xRJHrwyxjkSLIUhA/viewform>

## Ski Ward

Are you looking for a new program to add to your winter offerings? Something that is safe but also lets the kids socialize and participate in an activity? We have just the answer! Ski Ward!

Ski Ward's program consists of a 1 hour group lesson, once a week, for 5 consecutive weeks. Skiing is available for ages 4-7 and both skiing and snowboarding are available for ages 8-14. Those ages 8-14 will also receive free ski or board time after their lesson. Programs are offered Tuesday through Friday with multiple schedules to fit your schedule and start the week of January 4, 2021. If you are interested, select Forest Ave when registering online or over the phone, the best part is Forest Ave will receive 5% back on all registered participants!

## Hudson Holiday Coalition for Giving (Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce)

We are collecting grocery store gift cards for the Hudson Holiday Coalition for Giving. The coalition annually assists approximately 300 children and 150 families in Hudson. If you would like to donate (suggested denomination: \$10, \$15, or \$20) please send in with your child or drop off at the Forest Ave Front Office by **Friday, December 11th**. Cohort D Families can request contact-free pick-up by emailing: [ForestAveHSA@gmail.com](mailto:ForestAveHSA@gmail.com).

