

# It's Elementary

A Putnam Valley Elementary School Newsletter  
January, 2008

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## A Note to Parents from Jamie Edelman

Happy New Year! While January is a month of new beginnings and resolutions it is also the middle of cold and flu season. There is no place that experiences runny noses, hacking coughs and other aches and pains like an elementary school. Listed below are some tips to share with your child that should help us to keep our germs to ourselves and ultimately keep the colds and illness to a minimum.

### Wash Your Hands

Most colds and flu viruses are spread by direct contact. When a child sneezes or coughs into his or her hand and then touches the doorknob, a book or a shared writing utensil the germs can live for a few hours and then be picked up by another student. Washing hands frequently will prevent the spread of germs. If there isn't a sink available, hand sanitizer can be used.

### Don't Cover Your Sneezes/Coughs with Your Hands

Germs and viruses cling to bare hands and are then passed along to others. A better choice is to use a tissue when you feel a sneeze or cough coming.

### Get Fresh Air

Spend as much time as you can outside. Fresh air is good for you especially in cold weather when heat can be so dry. In addition, the activity boosts your immune system.

Please be aware that we will have tissues available and our students will have recess whenever the temperatures are above freezing. Hopefully, together we will be able to reduce the number of illnesses and increase the days children are in school.

## WHUD Visit

In December WHUD visited PVES and recorded all grade levels reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The radio station contacts us two weeks prior to the date of airing. We will send notification home to parents as soon as we receive it.

## First Grade Sing Along

On December 20, our first graders performed a series of seasonal songs for friends and family. Toward the end of the show, the audience was invited to participate and sing along. It was a heartwarming event and a great way to begin celebrating the holidays.

## BoxTops for Education

Please continue to collect BoxTops for Education. Each boxtop means ten cents for the school. Once you have collected fifty, put them in a baggie and drop them off in the main office.

## Lost and Overdue Books

As we approach the mid-point in the school year, a number of books borrowed in October and November have yet to be returned. Notices will be sent home to remind students of borrowed materials; please help your child locate these books at home.

Sadly, several books that have been returned are badly damaged. Although we review proper book care with students every school year, we would appreciate having the message reinforced at home. Snacks should be enjoyed away from library materials, and books should never be exposed to ANY type of moisture. Water is just as damaging to a book as juice or soda! Young children should be supervised with library materials, and books should be stored safely away from pets.

If a book is returned damaged, we will contact you at home about replacing it, so that children can continue to enjoy our wide selection of materials.

## Upcoming Events

January 4	Jonathan Kruk Author Visit
January 7 & 8	3rd Grade ELA Assessment
January 7 - 9	4th Grade ELA Assessment
January 15	Hallway Peace Gallery
January 16	4th Grade Song Writer Visit
January 25	2nd Grade Pizza/Bingo
January 30	Winter Concert
January 31	Winter Concert Snow Date

