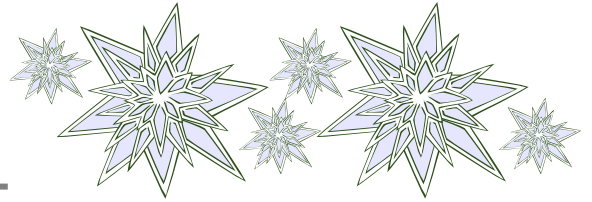


# VERNE W. CRITZ

## WINTER NEWSLETTER



### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As we prepare for Winter Recess, I would like to reflect on the many wonderful learning activities we have engaged in! The Great Pajama Drive enabled us to provide our students with the opportunity to participate in a caring project for children less fortunate. These children will also receive a book donated by Scholastic. Our annual Grade 3 "Holiday Concert" led by Mr. Dinger is one of my favorite holiday traditions. These 3rd Graders demonstrated great talent and effort at the concert!! The staff also celebrated with their special rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas that was enjoyed by all. Hear our third grade chorus on YouTube. Search for Critz kids or go directly by typing "<http://tinyurl.com/vwc2011k>".



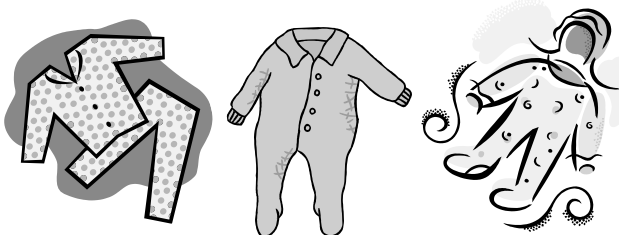
Special thanks to the PTA and volunteers for coordinating our Holiday Boutique. The students enjoyed shopping for their family members.

I am truly grateful for the collaborative effort of staff and parents in making these holiday activities worthwhile and meaningful for our students. I wish you and your family happiness and good health through out the year!



### THE GREAT PAJAMA DRIVE

For our second year we joined together with Scholastic Books and the non profit Pajama Program in "The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive". The mission of this drive is to provide 125,000 children in need with brand-new pajamas and books! These are children that live in group homes, shelters, foster care and orphanages. This year we collected 204 pairs of pajamas! This means that 204 students will receive a new pair of pajamas and a book! The student and staff celebrated their efforts with a school wide pajama party on December 13th. Everyone enjoyed the day and had warm cozy feelings about this special project.



### Inside this issue:

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- ◆ Winter Concert
- ◆ Grade 3 Holiday Service Project
- ◆ Grade 1 Candy Houses
- ◆ Student Art work on Exhibit
- ◆ Preventive Pointers

### Upcoming Events

Jan. 13 - Movie Night 6:00 Grades 2 & 3

Feb. 10 - Movie Night 6:00 Grades K & 1

Mar. 1 - Evening Book Fair 6:00

Mar. 2 - Snuggle Up & Read 6:00

Apr. 20 - Family Dance Party 6:00

Jun. 12—3rd Grade Picnic

PLEASE CONTACT MRS. PEREZ AT

CP17@OPTONLINE.NET TO VOLUNTEER



## GRADE 3 HOLIDAY SERVICE PROJECT FOR BROOKHAVEN HOSPITAL



The 3rd grades participated in a community service project for the holidays. Each class made holiday notepads with pens for the Brookhaven Hospital Emergency Room. These notepads will be there for children to use and take with them while visiting the hospital Emergency Room during the holidays.

By giving back to their community, we hope the students will learn that it's important to be thankful for what we have no matter how much or how little and to think of others who may have an unfortunate situation to deal with.



Brookhaven Hospital Staff receiving the note pads and poinsettia pens.

## GRADE 1 "CANDY HOUSE" PROJECT



Hansel and Gretel aren't the only ones enchanted by candy houses! This is the season when the first graders at Verne Critz delight in creating masterpieces during their annual "Candy House" project.

The making of candy houses has been going on for over two decades and remains one of the most popular events of the year. Family members are invited in to help construct the houses and young and old alike roll up their sleeves to create residences any miniature-sized being would be proud to live in.



The event is part of a half-day celebration that includes a pizza party and holiday movie that took place on December 23rd this year. What a wonderful way to kick off our December break and ensure that "visions of sugar plums dance in their heads"!

## STUDENT ART WORK ON EXHIBIT

Two Verne W. Critz students, Thomas Johnston and Justin Tigre Lucero, will have their art work on display at the Long Island Museum of American Art in the Village of Stony Brook (Exhibit "The Colors of Long Island"). The students created a seasonal leaf using pottery clay. A traditional slab method was used to create this project. The students display will be from November 18th to December 30th at the Long Island Museum at Stony Brook.

## PREVENTION POINTERS FROM NURSE CAROL

Healthy habits help keep sickness away. Try these tips with your family today.

Wash Your Hands—It's the single most effective way to keep from catching a cold or spreading one to some else.

### When to Wash

- \* Before you eat or touch food
- \* After you use the bathroom
- \* When you come in from playing outdoors
- \* After you cough, sneeze, or blow your nose

### How to Wash

- \*Wet your hands with warm running water
- \*Apply a small amount of soap
- \*Rub your hands together about 10 times the time it takes you to sing the "alphabet song".
- \*Rinse your hands under water then dry them thoroughly with a clean towel

