

County Line Connection

Caring, Sharing and Learning for Life

Volume 14, Issue 3

December 2011



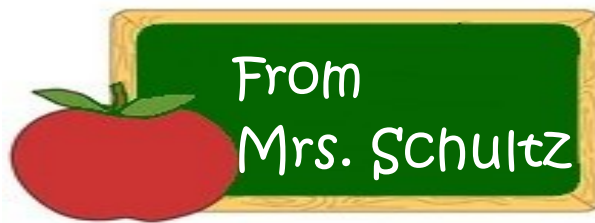
December Calendar

- 1 **PTA Flap Jack Flurry**
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Gym/Lib
- 2 **CL "Fun day" -**
Favorite Sports Team Day
Scrip orders due today
- 6 **Vision Screening**
Gr. K, 3, & 5
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Library
NO PTA meeting tonight
- 7 **Popcorn** day
- 9 **Report cards** go home today
- 12 **PTA Reflections Exhibit**
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. -
Germantown Community Library
- 14 **Popcorn** day
Gr. 2 First Stage
Field trip "Junie B. Jingle Bells" 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 16 **CL "Fun day" -**
School Pride Day
- 21 **Popcorn** day
- 22 **Early Release** 12:20 p.m.
for Students or Staff
- 23-31 **NO SCHOOL**
for Students or Staff -
Holiday Recess
- Jan 2 **NO SCHOOL** for students
Teacher In-service/Work day
- Jan 3 **School Resumes** for
students and staff

Thanksgiving Friendship Feast

The first grade students of Mrs. Siefkes and Mrs. Ernster gathered with their fifth grade buddies from Ms Wick and Mr. Neils' classrooms on Wednesday, November 23rd to celebrate Thanksgiving with a Friendship Feast. Our first grade Pilgrims and fifth grade Native Americans enjoyed a sampling of foods similar to those eaten at the first Thanksgiving. Everyone enjoyed sharing the feast and spending some time with their buddies! The teachers would like to thank the parent volunteers who donated items for the event, helped with the food preparation and acted as servers.





Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that it is already December. Winter weather will arrive soon. Time to get out boots, snow pants, hats, mittens and scarves to keep our students warm at recess. Please remember that if the temperature and/or wind-chill is **above zero** the kids go outside for recess. When there is snow on the ground, students must have snow pants and boots to play beyond the blacktop. Please check daily to be sure that all necessary outside gear is being brought to school.

Good attendance has a direct connection to class performance. Any time away from school will impact student achievement. Knowing that we all get sick or have other reasons to be out is understandable. Discretionary absences (vacations) can add up quickly. With the upcoming report card we are now reporting absences differently.

State law defines an absence as being gone for all or part of one day. Previously attendance on report cards has been reported in half-day increments, which is not consistent with state law. Therefore, beginning with this report card, attendance will be reported in full-day increments (ex: one AM absence on Monday and 1 one PM absence on Tuesday counts as **2 absences** where it was previously reported as one full day's absence (.5 + .5)).

Parents can excuse their child for 10 absences in the school year without any questions. Once your child reaches that 10 absence level, I review it as the attendance officer. Students with chronic medical conditions will not be receiving an attendance letter from me. All other students, including those who have taken extended vacations out of the country, will be receiving a letter from me in regards to attendance.

Students, who have been tardy more than 5 times in a year, will be receiving a letter from me in regards to excessive tardiness. Be aware that we also monitor children who are signed out early for attendance issues.

In a previous County Line Connection, the Board Policy 3214 regarding staff gifts was shared. This policy will be enforced this year and I am hoping you will support our staff with this.

- Staff may accept gifts of nominal value (<\$20) from students. Money cannot be "pooled" together to get a larger gift.
- It is strongly encouraged that gifts over \$20 are donated to the GSD or PTA or other outside organizations.

Happy Holidays from all of us at County Line School!

Warm Regards,

Cathy Schultz

DECEMBER 2011



Germantown School District

Empower and Inspire
Every Student to Success

District News:

Germantown School District Announces Participation in Evaluation Consortium:

The Germantown School District announced that it is part of a group of districts from the area that are working jointly to improve educator effectiveness.

The newly formed Southeastern Wisconsin Teacher Evaluation Consortium (SWTEC) is currently collaborating on developing a new teacher evaluating system. This growing consortium includes approximately 30 school districts in southeastern Wisconsin spanning over 100,000 students. Each school district is contributing \$1.00 per pupil enrolled in their school district to participate in the consortium work. "School districts in southeastern Wisconsin are very fortunate to have this opportunity. This unprecedented regional collaboration will help all of the participating districts address challenges with current teacher evaluation systems." said Pat Deklotz, Superintendent, Kettle Moraine School District. The fee will cover costs associated with consultants, supplies, research and related items the group uses to assist with the process.

Through a formal interagency agreement, or 66.03 agreement, participating school districts are beginning the work that will involve three phases. Phase I includes piloting a valid and reliable teacher evaluation tool; Phase II involves analyzing how student achievement data is most effectively included; and Phase III examines how the newly created evaluation system impacts the compensation system. Through a request for information process, the consortium selected the Value Added Research Center (VARC) from seven submitted proposals. VARC, connected to the University of Wisconsin, will serve as a strategic partner in the consortium's work. Todd Gray, Superintendent, School District of Waukesha said, "The partnership with VARC provides us access to some of the most up-to-date research on educator effectiveness and will help the consortium in its goal of improving teaching and learning in an era of accountability."

For further information contact Pewaukee School District Chief Academic Officer Mark Hansen at hansmar@pewaukee.k12.wi.us or 262-691-2100 ext. 6035 and/or Waukesha School District Deputy Superintendent Dana Monogue at dmonogue@waukesha.k12.wi.us or 262-970-1015.



Parents:

All absences need to be called in to the
County Line office by 9:00 am
262-253-3465

Thank you!





Mr. Z's Fundraiser:

A huge thank you to all of the County Line families who supported our PTA by participating in this fall's Mr. Z's catalog sale! Because of your hard work and dedication we raised \$10,400! These funds will allow County Line PTA to purchase four new SmartBoards for our students. We look forward to the Seroogy's chocolate and coffee sale coming up this spring to help us add more technology to our classrooms.

DestinationImagiNation® Fundraiser:

Destination Imagination is an extraordinary, non-profit organization that provides educational programs for students to learn and experience creativity, teamwork and problem solving. This winter, Germantown DI is collecting old cell phones and empty printer ink and toner cartridges. Proceeds received from recycling these items will be used to offset the costs of sending any team(s) from our school district, who qualify, to Global Finals this year. As of this school year, the Germantown School District has withdrawn their financial support for this endeavor. Items should be sent to school in a sealed zip-type plastic bag marked attention to Mr. Endlich, our school DI coordinator. Thank you for supporting Germantown DI!



Mrs. McCullum's Computer Lab Update:

Many parents have asked if Type to Learn 4, the keyboarding program we use in the computer lab, is available for home use. Students in 3rd - 5th grades spend 15 minutes once a week developing their keyboarding skills through the lessons and games that TTL4 offers. 2nd graders will begin TTL4 after Winter Break and the 6th graders at KMS also use this program. By learning to "touch type" students increase their typing speed, save work time, have less errors, use proper body mechanics leading to less fatigue, are able to focus on the text they are copying from or on the ideas they are creating, and increase their confidence. TTL4 can be purchased at: ttl4.sunburst.com. Students can reinforce the keyboarding skills taught by TTL4 at home, without purchasing the software, at the following free site: www.typingweb.com. When you register for a free account, the program will keep track of user progress. Please note this site does display advertising.



Reflections Arts Program 2011: Diversity Means...

District Reception



All Germantown students and families are invited to the PTA Reflections Reception Monday, December 12, at the Germantown Community Library from 6 to 8 p.m. Students who created an entry around the theme, "Diversity Means ..." will find out if they placed in the local competition. Entries from all four elementary schools and the middle and high schools will be on display in the library's community room. Come see how creative Germantown students can be!



PTA Teacher Grants Approved

The committee for the Pat Tulus PTA Grant Program awarded two teacher grants this fall, both for the 4th grade classrooms. The first grant was for Owl Pellet kits that the students will be able to dissect to find skulls and other skeletal parts during their science animal unit. The second award will purchase Wisconsin Weekly Studies newspapers that contain lessons, activities, and stories to teach the students about Wisconsin history. The grants are offered to staff in fall and spring (unless total budgeted amount is awarded in fall) and are intended to provide funding for innovative new educational programs to benefit our students. We hope to get more teacher grant applications this spring, as we still have over \$2000 in our budget to award.



**County Line PTA would
like to thank
Kevin Breitzmann, CPA
for filing our annual tax return.**

County Line's PTA has many ongoing fundraisers that they hope you will participate in. Please see the fundraising section of their website for more information on the following fundraisers:

www.teacherweb.com/WI/CountyLine/PTA/h1.aspx



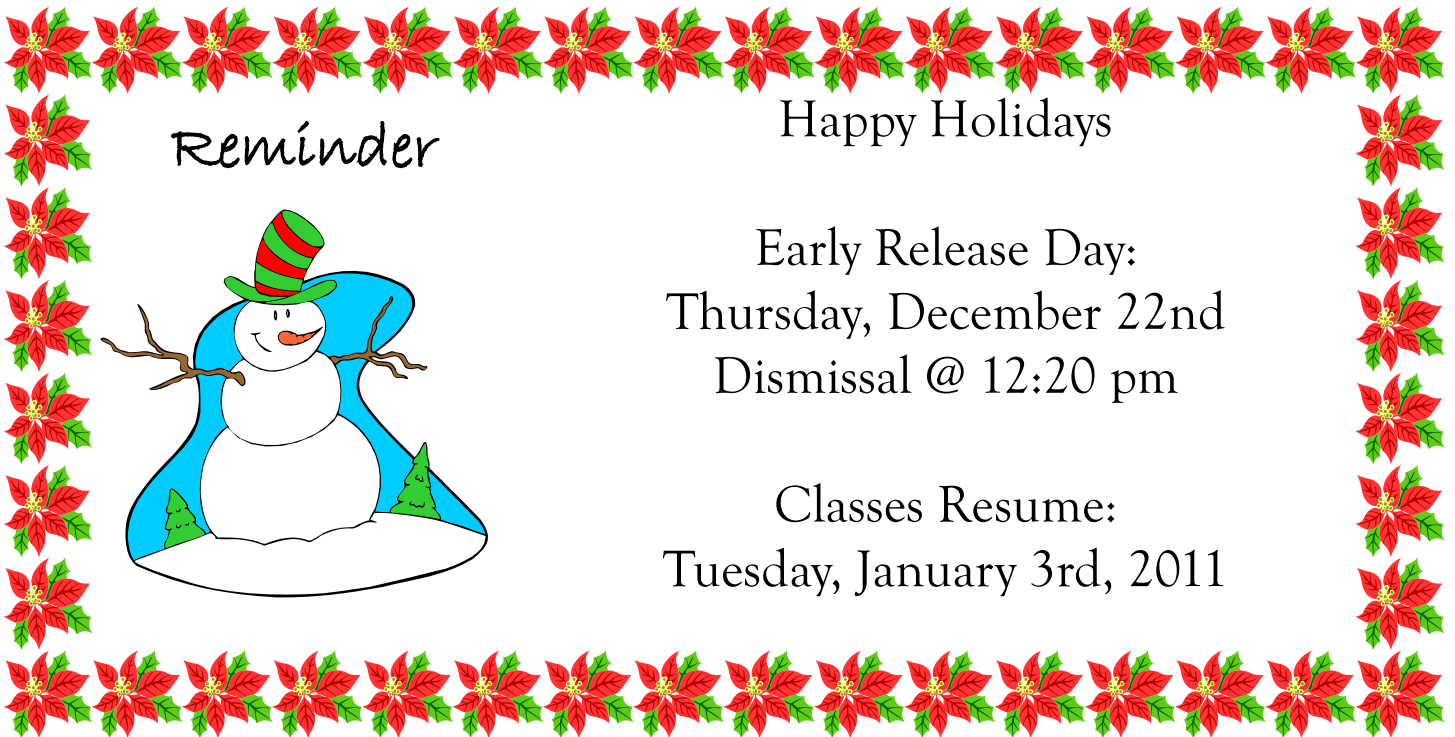
TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION™

Reward your school!



Scrip Gift Card Purchasing Program

This month's order due: Friday, December 2nd



Reminder



Happy Holidays

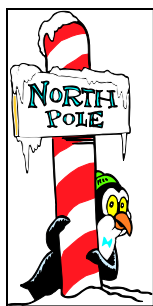
Early Release Day:
Thursday, December 22nd
Dismissal @ 12:20 pm

Classes Resume:
Tuesday, January 3rd, 2011

COUNTY LINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
W159 N9939 BUTTERNUT ROAD
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022

[HTTP://WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG/SCHOOLS/COUNTYLINE/](http://www.germantownschoools.org/schools/countyline/)
[HTTP://WWW.TEACHERWEB.COM/WI/COUNTYLINE/PTA/CALENDAR1.ASPX](http://www.teacherweb.com/WI/CountyLine/PTA/Calendar1.aspx)

Letters to Santa SCRIP...



Gift cards are on the top of many holiday wish lists. The majority of us will purchase gift cards to various retailers this holiday season to give to family, friends, neighbors, pet groomers, postal carriers, teachers, etc. Gift cards are the perfect gift! When you purchase your holiday gift cards through County Line PTA's Scrip program -- it's a win win situation. You pay the same amount for popular vendor cards as you would purchasing them elsewhere, plus County Line PTA benefits. For example, you purchase one \$50 Applebee's Gift Card by writing your check to County Line PTA for \$50. PTA will purchase your gift card at 8% less for a cost of \$46. The 8% or \$4 "profit" is placed in PTA funds to support various programs benefiting the students at County Line all year long. It's so easy!!! Please support County Line PTA and buy your gift cards through our Scrip program!



How do I order Scrip?

1 - Simply return your Scrip order to school in an envelope marked "Holiday SCRIP Order" no later than **Friday, December 2nd**. For your convenience, a sample of participating vendors and an order form are attached. For a complete list of retailers, or extra order forms, please visit the PTA section of the County Line web site.

2 - Order in person at the Flapjack Flurry on the evening of **December 1st**: just drop your order in our holiday mailbox for express delivery to SCRIP at the North Pole! Order forms, envelopes and a printout of all participating vendors will be available to make your holiday shopping effortless. Orders will come home no later than the week of December 12th.

Checks need to be made payable to **County Line PTA**.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL - Massage by Jeanette \$50.00 Gift Certificates

If you're looking for relaxation and a healthier you, or you want to surprise a loved one with a special gift - check out **Massage by Jeanette** located in Tangle Hair Studio on Pilgrim Road in Germantown. Jeanette's goal is your comfort and satisfaction.

This is your time to relax and treat yourself or someone you know to tranquility.

Choose from a variety of services: Swedish Massage, Deep Tissue Massage, Hot Tea and honey Facial, Deluxe Hot Tea and Honey Facial with Arm, Shoulder and Neck Massage

View the website at massagebyjeanette.vpweb.com for more information.

Plan Ahead: 2011 – 2012 SCRIP Remaining Sale Dates

December 2nd

March 2nd

January 6th

April 4th (Wednesday)

February 3rd

May 4th

