

**Greetings!** The faculty, staff and students of Milford Middle School wish to express to our school community of families a joyous and safe holiday season!

Middle school students are at a point in their lives where they are beginning to develop an understanding and a caring for the world around them. Some are beginning to realize that they can make a difference and are becoming socially conscious. Some start to develop strong opinions and commitments to organizations and/or causes, while others have a need to “give back” or help others needier than themselves. It is our responsibility as adults to assist them in focusing this energy positively. This is a great time of year to help our middle schoolers focus their energy and help our community and those less fortunate.

One of the missions of our school is to “give back” to the community in meaningful ways. This month the MMS Student Council and the MMS PTO are jointly sponsoring the “**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Clothing Drive**” for SHARE. We have a couple of collection days coming up on Friday, December 1st and Wednesday, December 6th. The last day of collections is Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Each advisory group is asked to bring in clothing for local families, including winter jackets, coats, and boots in good, clean condition are accepted for donation. We thank you in advance for your assistance and your generosity to help others less fortunate especially in these troubling economic times.

We are also a collection site for the “**Holiday Toy Store**” which benefits children from Milford, Amherst and Mount Vernon. The box, which is located in the main lobby, is for students, parents and staff to participate in giving toys to the children in our three towns that are less fortunate. We ask that if you can that you send in new unwrapped toys for the Holiday Toy Store. The toys will be collected on Friday, December 15th.

Please join us on December 6<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> for our annual winter concerts. The Chorus Concert will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and will begin at 7:00PM. The 6, 7, & 8 grade Band and Jazz Band Concert will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00PM. The Music Boosters will be sponsoring a bake sale and raffles during the concerts in the main lobby. We hope to see you there. Happy Holidays!

Every year I cannot stress enough that as the weather starts to turn colder, students need to be reminded to wear appropriate outside clothing. Coats, jackets, gloves, scarves and hats are essential on these cold mornings. We constantly see students dressed in clothing more appropriate for milder and temperate weather. If appropriate cold weather clothing is an issue, please let us know and arrangements can be made, confidentially, to provide appropriate winter clothing. Middle school students do not want to wear winter clothing even on the chilliest mornings. We do allow the students to come into the building if it is snowing, raining or the temperature (usually below 20°F) dictates that we do so. *However the majority of the time during the winter months students are outside.*

We ask that you please follow the driveway signs in the morning and in the afternoon to help us keep the roadway and driveways safe for the students. I remind you that parents should not be driving up the main driveway in the mornings while the students are waiting outside. Students should be dropped off and picked up in the Barn Loop off Osgood Road. Please be courteous to one another and to the students in the morning when dropping off and picking up your children. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Tony DeMarco, Principal  
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