

*From the principal's desk...*

Dear families,

Last year, one of my favorite events at Douglass was the All-School Sing on the day before Winter Vacation. The sounds of the entire school community – kids, teachers, parents, staff members – joined in unison to sing and listen. Coming together in song warmed my heart, and there were hundreds of bright smiles on faces that afternoon.

This uniquely Douglass tradition returns on Friday, December 17, beginning promptly at 1:45 in the gym. Classroom parties will be held prior to the Sing.

Thinking of other meaningful Douglass events, I smile with pride at our efforts to help families in our community who are in need. The Mitten Drive has been another huge success, with well over 200 gifts purchased, wrapped and delivered to date. Several classrooms are taking part in a canned food drive, as well as in Toys for Tots. No matter how big or small your family's contribution, please know how much I appreciate your spirit of giving and the collective display of generosity.

This may be a strange segue, but I'd like to offer a gentle reminder of a district regulation regarding gift-giving and –receiving for our faculty and staff. Employees of the Boulder Valley School District are not permitted to accept gifts with a face value of over \$25.00. The intent is to ensure that our common expectations for ethical behavior is not compromised by even the most well-meaning giver. If you have any questions about this regulation, please contact me.

The principals at Bear Creek, Douglass, Mesa Elementary and Southern Hills Middle School would like to invite you to attend a special screening of the documentary *Race to Nowhere*. The movie discusses the impact of the high-stakes culture that is prevalent in public education today and its impact on the kids we care so deeply about.

The screening takes place on Wednesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at Southern Hills. There are a limited number of tickets available for \$10.00 each. They can be purchased at <http://rtnsouthernhills.eventbrite.com>.

If you'd like to invite friends and family to attend, feel free to forward this link to them, which has more information about the event and ticketing information: <http://www.racetonowhere.com/postcard/january-12th-boulder-co>.

It is our hope that this documentary will generate discussion in our school communities. Hope you can join us in January.

On behalf of the teachers and staff at Douglass, I wish you all a joyous winter vacation!

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer