

*From the principal's desk...*

December is here! That brings cold weather and a cherished celebration at Douglass, which I will elaborate more on below – as well as an update on construction progress.

**Cold weather** – this week's frigid temperatures were surprising to us all, I think! As students arrived at school on Monday morning, we had them come directly inside to their classrooms so as to avoid the weather that hovered around 0 degrees.

However, as all parents and teachers know, keeping kids cooped up inside all day is counterproductive and challenging at best. At about 10:30, I went outside to check the temperature, playground conditions, wind, and sunshine. The temperature was around 12 degrees, the blacktop was cleared, there was no wind, and the sun shone brightly. I stood out there for several more minutes, and decided that it was safe to send children outside for lunch recess.

Please know that even if it's cold outside, we may decide that outdoor recess is appropriate – so please make sure that your children are prepared for that possibility. It's a shame to have to keep kids inside away from their friends if they don't have sufficient winter weather gear.

**All School Sing** – this is the favorite event for many teachers and students. This year's Sing will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 16 in the gym. This is a time where kids and their teachers all gather to sing the same songs together – there will not be a choir performance this day as they will be singing earlier in the week for the school and for parents. If parents are able to attend the Sing, we will enjoy hearing your singing voices joining our voices! Most classes' holiday parties will take place later that afternoon, so we realize you may not be able to attend both events.

**Construction progress** – this week's cold temperatures did not impact our ongoing construction as windows are already installed, along with brick walls and drywall allowing contractors to work inside the new preschool area and the administrative entrance. Work also continues in the new elevator that is being built to provide full accessibility to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

We have an estimated move in date of January 16 for the new administrative area and the new main entrance to the building. I will let you know as soon as the bus loading and unloading area returns to the south parking lot so that you are aware of the changes to the morning and afternoon routines.

**Finally**, a special thank you to this generous Douglass Elementary School community for the tremendous support of people in need. Our student council collected well over a ton of food in their annual canned food drive, which will go directly to local food banks. We also saw truckloads of presents be delivered this week to less-fortunate children, and that spirit of giving absolutely warms my heart. Thank you all for lighting the spark of the spirit of the season!

Enjoy the winter vacation! Classes resume Wednesday, January 5, 2012.

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer