

# Parent December Newsletter

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All parents want their children to be service-minded. The winter break from school provides an ideal time for parents to teach their children these values. Children who are involved in community service activities are inspired by their ability to help others. Teaching your children the value of community service also helps them become more knowledgeable and respectful of diversity in their community.

Doing community service as a family allows you the opportunity to spend time together, which also strengthens family relationships. Projects you might consider doing along with your child include the following:

- Volunteering at a food bank.
- Delivering flowers to your neighbors.
- Picking up trash at a park.
- Delivering greeting cards or small gifts to nursing home patients.
- Making greeting cards and activity packets with coloring books and stickers for children in the hospital.
- Taking thank you cards to your local fire or police department.

Consider the following questions when encouraging your child to participate in community service activities that will benefit others:

- Why is community service important for my child?
- What can my child learn from doing community service?
- How can my child get involved in community service?
- Are there families at our school that need assistance?

## **Health and Safety**

As you shop for your child and others, be sure to consider the safety of the toy or game you are buying. According to the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#), in 2013 an estimated 256,700 toy-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. Here are some things to consider as you select toys and games in the future:

- How do I make sure my child's toys are safe?
- What does it mean when a toy is labeled "supervision required"?
- Is the toy age appropriate?

In addition to ensuring toys are safe, also look for opportunities during the winter break for your child to get exercise. Whether it involves raking leaves or walking the dog, be sure to include exercise into your child's daily activities while on winter break. This helps your child build healthy habits, and good health leads to better learning in the classroom.



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