

Hi GFB Families,

An official welcome to the first week of December for us all! December is a month that seems to fly by as we prepare in earnest for family gatherings and celebrations aplenty. Keeping routines predictable will help students temper the pace and focus of the season. You can be sure that's what we'll be doing!

This Wednesday, December 7th, is an early release day. Teachers will be engaging in professional development focused on a variety of topics and practices, depending on grade level and student need. Please be reminded that PK students will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. and will be dismissed out the **front door** of the school. Preschool parents/guardians should park up by the cemetery and walk to get their students. Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m. First and second grade students will be dismissed at 11:00. To keep traffic flowing, 1st and 2nd grade families are reminded NOT to arrive early. Only families picking up kindergarten students will be allowed to remain in the right turn-only lane. All other traffic will be directed to the cemetery.

With eleven days away from school and therefore formal instruction, it is likely that student skills will get a bit rusty. Our teachers are providing you with all the detailed information you need to combat this. It would be difficult to overstate the importance of your help in keeping skills current. Please do your student (and our teachers) a favor and make good use of this information. Following are the November curriculum summaries for each grade:

[Kindergarten](#)

[First Grade Curriculum](#)

[Second Grade Curriculum](#)

We are experiencing several traffic challenges and with that, student safety challenges as well. It is hard to fathom but entirely true, some parents/guardians are choosing to make a U-turn on Kennedy Drive. This not only inhibits others from access to the loop and timely arrival of their student, but this is also illegal and has the potential to be catastrophic. Blocking traffic in both directions, no matter how briefly, compromises safety and emergency access to our school. The example this sets for your student speaks for itself. Please help us model good safety practices by NOT doing this. In addition, please be reminded that there is NO parking in crosswalks, at the entrance of the DPW, or in the DPW parking lot. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Families new to our school may be curious if we have a holiday music concert. We do not but instead choose to hold a winter concert. Our winter concert will be held in January when the business of the holiday season calms, and we have more in-school learning time. Please look for more info on this next month.

Our school-wide collection of items to donate to the Winthrop Food Pantry continues through December 14. As a reminder, the following items are specifically requested although all donations are very much appreciated: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, napkins, tissues, body soap, jelly or jam, peanut butter and condiments. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

There is never a time when our PTO isn't working hard to provide enjoyment and support to our students and their families. We thank them always but most recently would like to thank them and acknowledge the tireless efforts of Dawn Hurley and all volunteers for planning a hugely successful book fair for our students. And thank you to our families for your enthusiastic purchasing!

The PTO has allocated funds to assist families that may be experiencing financial hardship at the holidays. Families needing assistance can contact me or Ms. Tucker for more information. Requests for assistance will remain confidential.

Please join us this Thursday 12/8 for the December PTO Meeting at 6:30 PM in the GFB Cafeteria. We will also be featuring our organization of the month, The Winthrop Parents Network! We hope you can join to hear all the upcoming events and to learn more about this wonderful resource in our community. Please see this month's agenda .

Meeting Agenda for December 8, 2022
fortbankspto@gmail.com
Facebook @fortbankspto

- **Welcome**
 - Presidents: Rita Mansfield & Janine Santilli
 - Vice Presidents: Jacqueline Bagnera-Brandao & Kristina Pizzicannella-Murphy
 - Secretary: Lara Van Lannen
 - Communication Specialist: Victoria Stone
 - Treasurer: Sebastien Lamiaux
- **Featured Organization of the Month**
 - Winthrop Parents Network
- **Principal's Report** (Mrs. Pearson)
- **Recent Events** (Rita Mansfield)
 - Book Fair (week of November 28 – December 2)
- **Current/Upcoming Events** (Rita Mansfield)
 - Gear Sale
 - Classroom Holiday Celebrations

December 2022

PTO Agenda

Gorman Fort Banks PTO
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Welcome Presidents:
Rita Mansfield & Janine
Santilli Vice Presidents:
Jacqueline
Bagnera-Brandao &
Kristina
Pizzicannella-Murphy
Secretary: Lara Van
Lannen Communication
Specialist: Victoria...

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Wishing you a great week...

Your Partner in Education,
Ms. Pearson, Principal