

# Of Special Interest . . .

## *Holiday Wishes*

On behalf of the North Canaan Elementary School staff I extend warm wishes to each of you. May your holidays be happy, healthy, and safe! Enjoy the season and come back next year eager and ready to learn!

Part of enjoying the holiday is doing for others. As a country we are very generous; as Canaanites we reflect this spirit of benevolence to an extraordinary degree. With that in mind, please be aware of community programs, some appear in this newsletter. Support what you are able to help those in need this holiday season.

## *North Canaan Tree Lighting*

The school is an integral part of the town's tree lighting ceremony! This wonderful annual event will take place on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. The school band will play, the PTO bakes cookies, and Dena Solan, mom of fourth grader Joe, helps organize the carol sing. Gather at the pavilion in town for the six o'clock start. The program usually lasts just less than one hour; come out! Enjoy the entertainment, sip hot cocoa, nibble cookies, and as a special treat you may even see Santa!

## *Gingerbread Folks*

The holidays are great for baking together as a family and decorating cookies is something that all children love. Some of my fondest childhood memories are those of working in the kitchen creating holiday goodies—and I still love it! These cookies hang on a tree particularly well. Poke a hole with a toothpick or skewer at the top just as the cookies come out of the oven. Once decorated thread with colorful ribbon, string, or fishing line. This recipe will yield about 3 dozen people.

Ingredients:

3 1/2 cups all purpose flour, sifted	1 1/4 tsp. ground ginger
1 heaping tablespoon cinnamon	1 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
2 tsp. baking powder	1 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. baking soda	1 tsp. salt
2 sticks unsalted butter	1 cup sugar
3 eggs	1 cup molasses

In a large bowl sift all of the dry ingredients. In another bowl beat the butter and sugar until it is light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time. Use a wooden spoon and stir in the dry ingredients. Cover the bowl and refrigerate the dough for two hours or overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and prepare three baking sheets with butter. Cut the dough in half—spread 1/4 cup of flour on a surface and roll out the first disk of dough until it is about 1/4 inch thick. Using a cookie cutter, cut out the people. Decorate with raisins, nuts, cherries, candies (use your imagination). Bake about 8-10 minutes. Repeat the process with the second disk starting by spreading another 1/4 cup flour. Cookies may also be iced by adding 1/2 tsp. vanilla to 2 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar and 4 tbs. cold water. Divide into small cups and add food coloring. Snip the corner off of a ZipLock bag, fill with icing and pipe smiling faces, eyes, bow ties, buttons, hair, etc...Let your imagination run wild. Enjoy!

## *Middle School Discipline Policy*

A meeting scheduled for December 3 has been changed to the following Monday, December 10, 2007 at 3:30. If you signed up to be on this committee, please join us in the lower level of the library for this discussion from 3:30-4:30. We will establish a schedule of meetings and review the policy in sections.

*North Canaan Elementary School  
Canaan, Connecticut 06018*

## **Toys for Tots Tickets!**

In conjunction with Troop B **The Middle School Elves** will be busy collecting unwrapped toys this holiday season. The student council will issue a ticket for every toy that you donate. On December 19 they will draw three tickets and the winners will get a special holiday treat. Your toys can be placed in the Christmas train located in the **Middle School**. Please make sure you get a ticket for every toy you drop off. The student council will be issuing the toy tickets. **Thank you** for supporting the NCES Student Council's gift giving holiday project.

## **North Canaan Middle School Student Council 2007-2008 by Mr. Murray**

Thank you to the entire Middle School for a well run election. Students carried themselves in a manner that would have made their founding fathers proud. All race results were very close and necessitated numerous recounts. Congratulations to the winners and all those who participated in our election process.

The winners on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November Anno Domini 2007-

<u>6th Grade Student Council</u>	<u>7th Grade Student Council</u>	<u>8th Grade Student Council</u>
Allison Perotti	Cassidy Considine	Jose Rincon
Trevor Dakers	Caitlin Webb	Jacob Foley
Abigail Merrill	Kenneth Jasmin	Shane Cattelan
Lindsey Jacquier	Katherine Funkhouser	Katherine Orrell

We had a 3 way tie among the following students running for Student Council President-

Dalton Jacquier  
Angus Palmer  
Madison Ackerman

## **PTO Holiday Shopping**

The PTO is hosting its first Holiday Shopping Night on Friday, December 7 here at North Canaan Elementary School. The shopping night begins at 3:30 P.M. and goes until 8:00 P.M. Why shop at NCES? The consultants will be giving back a % of their sales to the NCES PTO. You will find products from Discovery Toys, Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Linen World, Chez Ami, Chez Belle by Patsy Aiken, Silpada Jewelry, Arbonne, Stampin Up, Tupperware & so much more. Also, the 6th graders will be selling baked goods to help offset the cost of their school trip in 2008. We are still looking for vendors, if you have interest in selling your product, please contact Nikki Blass at (860) 824-0088 or at [nbllass01@yahoo.com](mailto:nbllass01@yahoo.com). Hope to see you there.

## **PTO BOX TOP December Challenge**

Soon your child will be receiving the December Box Top challenge. For every completed page received, your child's name will be entered in the Gift Card Drawing. You will also be able to print additional copies from the NCES website. The NCES website address is—<http://www.northcanaanelementaryschool.org/> go to the PTO section for details. Some reminders about Box Tops—

Please make sure you cut out the Box Tops on the dotted line. Believe it or not, Box Tops won't accept them any other way.

Make sure they are not expired (Box Tops will not accept them).

Make sure if your child does the challenge that they only put 10 (.10 cent) Box Tops on the form. If you have any Super Box Tops .30 cents or .50 cents, send them in separately. They can't be mixed in with the .10 cent Box Tops. If you have lots of Box Tops, you can send them in baggies as well. The October Box Top Winners will be announced at school. There will be two winners each receiving a gift card to Toys R Us.

## **Come One, Come All!**

The 8th grade class cordially invites friends and family to a dessert and coffee buffet after the winter concert on Wednesday, December 12 (snow date 12/17). The Eighth Grade will be selling goodies to benefit their class trip to Philadelphia in June.

Come and enjoy a delightful evening of music and homemade goodies before the holidays!

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