

Happy Holidays!

Principal's Message

Happy Holidays,

The holiday season is such a special time in the elementary schools. There is so much contagious excitement in all the grades but especially among our youngest students. As we end the year and begin a new one, it is important to pause and consider how fortunate we are to have such a dynamic learning community for our children. Thank you for all you do to encourage and support your child's education throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Mary Turo

CALENDAR

- 12/12 Hanukkah begins at sundown
- 12/13 Early K to Berkshire Museum for Festival of Trees
- 12/14 5th & 6th grade band/chorus concert at 6:30 in the TAC/PAC
- 12/20 UME Winter Solstice Sing in the elementary gym at 1:30
- 12/21 NMC Winter Solstice Sing at 1:30
- 12/22 Winter Break begins (12/22 – 1/1)
- 12/25 Christmas
- 1/1 New Years Day 2018
- 1/3 Butternut skiing begins
- 1/11 3rd & 4th grade Chorus Concert @ 6:30 in the TACPAC
- 1/12 ½ day Professional Development, dismissal at 11:40
- 1/15 Martin Luther King Day – no school

UME Winter Solstice Sing & Caring Celebration

Wednesday, December 20, @ 1:30 pm

In the Undermountain gym

Come meet and sing-along with other UME families and learn about the caring activities we have been practicing within our school and our community.

Every grade has been assigned a color. Your child is encouraged to wear as much of the following color as possible:

PK, EK & K – White

1st – Red

2nd – orange

3rd – yellow (gold, tan)

4th – green

5th – blue

6th – purple

We look forward to seeing you soon!

New Marlborough Central School held their annual Holiday Fair on December 9th. The turnout was great despite the snow. The PTA sold crafts, local food and Christmas trees. Several musical groups performed, including the Mt. Everett Madrigal Singers.

The money raised is used to support field trips, enrichment programs, and to make special purchases for the New Marlborough School.



NMC Winter Solstice Sing & Caring Celebration

Thursday, December 21, @1:30 pm
In the NMC gym

Come meet and sing-along with other NMC family members and learn about the caring activities we have been practicing within our school and our community. Every grade has been assigned a color. Your child is encouraged to wear as much of the following color as possible:

EK & K – red	1 st – orange
2 nd – yellow (gold/tan)	3 rd – green
4 th – blue	Faculty – purple

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

The 5th & 6th grade students at Undermountain will be participating in Botvin Life Skills training with trainers from the Berkshire County DA's office. Grade 5 will do five weeks of training and grade 6 will do 16 weeks. The program is funded and endorsed by DA David Capeless's office to equip children with the skills to resist substance abuse and other risky behaviors.

This program is a research-validated substance abuse prevention program proven to reduce the risks of substance abuse and violence by promoting healthy alternatives to risky behavior through activities designed to:

- Teach students skills necessary to resist social (peer) pressures to smoke, drink, and use drugs
- Develop greater self-esteem and self-confidence
- Increase knowledge of immediate consequences of substance abuse
- Enhance cognitive and behavioral competency to reduce and prevent a variety of health risk behaviors

More information on the Botvin Life Skills program is available at <http://lifekillstraining.com>

Hour of Code Initiative

The third and fourth graders at UME and NMC participated in the Hour of Code initiative. "The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify 'code', to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science." Experienced coders from Mt. Everett worked with Mr. Thompson, Technology Coordinator, with the 3rd and 4th grade classes at both schools. The classes learned how to program using the computer language Python. They then were able to write code in Python to solve multistep math problems.

SCHOOL NURSES' MESSAGE

Please remember the weather has turned cold and children need to be dressed appropriately. Recess is held outdoors whenever possible. We monitor both the temperature and the wind chill to help decide when it is safe to be outdoors. Playground conditions are also factored in (too icy, too wet, for example).

It is a good plan to have a complete change of clothing here for each student. On that note, I would like to thank the parents that brought in new underwear and socks for the Health Office.

The Nurse's offices have been very busy completing both the vision and hearing tests. Thank you Nurse Larkin for all your help. If you have not heard from us, your child has passed both. The Swish Fluoride Program is in full swing. If your child is signed up for this treatment, they are receiving it once a week. A special thanks to the UME parent volunteer Sarah Pollock and my many student helpers.

Please remember to send in a copy of your child's latest physical and immunizations.

Hilary Bashara, RN BSN - School Nurse, UME
Tricia Zucco, RN – School Nurse, NMC