

Hello Maple Families,

Happy December! As this busy month approaches, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. May you have the time and opportunity to appreciate and enjoy family, friends and holiday traditions. Along with many festive activities I enjoyed this weekend, I also had the wonderful opportunity to attend our district PreK-12 Equity Steering Committee conference. Over 25 members, including students, parents, teachers, administrators and Dr. LeClair spent the day at EHS with facilitators Safire DeJong, Romeo Sigle and Asher Hamilton. We were led through exercises aimed at creating an atmosphere conducive for moving forward with our year-long mission, to work together to help create truly equitable and inclusive schools for all children of Easthampton.

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### **Windows and Mirrors: Diverse Books to Benefit All Learners**

Jodi Alatalo, our district Literacy Coordinator, has established a Donors Choose project intended to fill our library and classrooms with award-winning, diverse texts. If you are looking for a way to acknowledge our teachers while supporting students this holiday season, please consider a donation to this wonderful project.

<https://www.donorschoose.org/we-teach/5307455>

**Student Absences and Late Arrivals** – Letters are going home with report cards next week to families whose children are experiencing excessive absences or tardiness. While we fully understand that life happens, sickness strikes and unexpected circumstances cause us to be late at times, students suffer when these situations become too commonplace. Students who attend school regularly, arrive on time, and are prepared for the school day have more academic and social success and feel more connected to the school community. We appreciate your support in this important component of school success.



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## Important Announcements

We have had several requests from families asking us to prohibit dogs from the playground area before and after school. While Maple has always been a dog friendly environment, enough requests have been made for us to recognize the need to change this policy at this time. We will be creating signs for the fenced in area to reinforce this new policy. We appreciate your cooperation with this important request to ensure everyone's comfort and safety.

## In Our Community

**December 3** – Free Soup & Game Night to Benefit The Garden 5-7:30

**December 8** – Art Walk (5-8), Hanukkah Festival (5:30) and Cottage Street Sings! Seasonal songs from a variety of religious and cultural traditions (5-5:30) on the promenade by the pond.

**December 21** – Arcadia Wildlife Winter Solstice Celebration 5:30-8:30

