

As Winter Break approaches, I want to wish you all a wonderful winter and holiday season. May your time away from school be safe, enjoyable and an opportunity to spend time with family and friends. We will see you in the New Year!

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Monday, December 18	School Store 8:50 AM
	Robotics Club 3:35 PM
	Scullen Encore Night 6:30 PM - Scullen Middle School
Tuesday, December 19	Student Council 8:10 AM
	5th Grade Basketball 3:35 PM
Wednesday, December 20	Pajama Day!
Thursday, December 21	NO Choir
	Student Council 8:10 AM
	5th Grade Basketball 3:35 PM
	Postal Club 3:35 PM
Friday, December 22	School Store 8:50 AM
	PTA Winter Celebrations 2:30 - 3:00 PM
January 8	Classes Resume

Winter Celebrations... On Friday, December 22nd, PTA will be hosting Winter Celebrations in each of our classrooms! **If you are attending and will be taking your student with you at the conclusion of the party (3:00 PM), please email Sarah Nowak (sarah_nowak@ipsd.org) with**

your student(s)' name/grade/teacher no later than Wednesday, December 20th.

If you wish for your child not to participate in the Winter Celebrations, please email Sarah Nowak (sarah_nowak@ipsd.org) with your student(s)' name/grade/teacher no later than Wednesday, December 20th and an alternative activity will be planned.

Third-Party Educational Programs... The following companies have rented space in our schools to offer an after-school educational program for students. The distribution of this material is in no way an endorsement of programs, services, activities or products by District 204. For more information about the programs listed below, visit:

[Welch: Young Rembrandts Drawing Classes for Kids](#)

Young Authors... Looking for something to do over winter break? Encourage your student(s) to write! Welch will again participate in the Young Authors' program. The program is Co-sponsored by the Illinois Language and Literacy Council and the Illinois Reading Council. Every child at Welch may participate in the program; however student participation is optional. Students interested in participating will need to submit their entries by Friday, February 2nd. The work selected to represent Welch will be announced at a Young Authors' Café on Tuesday, February 27th. For additional program details, please see the attached .pdf document.

IMPORTANT Parent Survey... Teachers, parents, and middle and high school students across Illinois have the opportunity to participate in the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey was designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. As a parent, your voice is essential to help us understand the conditions at your child's school and guide improvement.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is administered online by the University of Chicago, on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education. The state will provide survey results for individual schools only if a school has at least 20

percent of parents take the survey. If you have children attending more than one school, we ask that you complete the survey for each school. You may also complete the survey more than once if you have more than one child in the same school. All survey responses will be kept confidential. University of Chicago asks parents for an email address when they begin the survey only for the purpose of sending a confirmation once the survey is completed. University of Chicago will never connect your identity and survey responses to you or your child or share the information with your school, the district or the Illinois State Board of Education.

To take this short survey:

1. Visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/login/>.
2. Type and then select **Dupage** as District 204's County location. This is the county associated with the district, not the location of an individual school.
3. Type your school's name into the School field and then select your school.

Recess Reminder... With the cold temperatures upon us, I wanted to send a reminder regarding recess. A 15 minute recess is held each day following lunch. During the winter, we will go outside for recess if the wind chill index is at 5 degrees or above. The wind chill report will be obtained from the National Weather Service. Students are expected to dress appropriately for winter weather recess with hats, gloves, boots, and winter coats. When we have snow, boots and snow pants are required to venture off of the blacktop and out into the snow. All students participate in recess unless a doctor's note including a medical reason is provided to the school. When a student is excluded from PE due to a medical concern, the exclusion will apply to all physical activities including recess, unless otherwise noted. The school nurse will follow up with the doctor's office as needed. Please note that parents may write a note to excuse their student from all physical activities, including recess, for up to three days. If there is an ongoing or recurrent illness or need for exclusion, we will request a doctor's note regarding the exclusion and the medical reason for the exclusion. Students who are unable to participate in recess will sit inside the lunchroom on the stage stairs reading, and will be supervised by our lunchroom supervisors. Please contact Welch's main office with any questions. Our students' safety is our concern.

Arrival and Dismissal... Due to the cold temperatures, we have a larger number of parents driving their students to and from school. Please allow a few extra minutes to ensure that students are IN THEIR CLASSROOMS by 9:05 AM. Students who are not in their classrooms when the 9:05 AM bell rings will be marked tardy. **Please note that the doors open at 8:50 AM.** To ensure that all of our students are *safe*, please follow the procedures listed below:

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- If you are dropping your student off by car, you **MUST** use the carline in the parking lot off of Cedar Glade. **It is unsafe to drop students off in the street in front of the school, as they often will then cross without the assistance of a crossing guard.**
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- Please ensure that students exit and enter vehicles from the passenger side so they are not walking around the car in the carline.
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- The circle drive in the front of the building is for buses only; cars are prohibited from entering or using the circle drive exit as a place to turn around or drop off students.
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- Please ensure that if you are picking your student up in the car line in the afternoon that your car has a tag on the passenger window with your last name and their grade level(s). This will assist staff in getting students to their cars as quickly as possible. This tag can be on any piece of paper, or you can request a tag from Sarah Nowak (sarah_nowak@ipsd.org).
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Your students' safety is our number one concern. With over 700 White Tigers in our building, it is essential that procedures are in place and followed. Thank you for your support.

Vacations... This is the time of year when many of our families take extended vacations. Thank you for contacting your child's teacher and the attendance office at 630-375-3200 x3. Please keep in mind that homework will not be sent in advance. Your child will have adequate time for make up work upon his/her return.

Making the Right Call When Your Child is Sick... As we are coming into cold and flu season, a few reminders:

School Policy requires a child to stay home if he or she:

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- Has a fever of 100.0 or higher
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- Has been vomiting or has diarrhea
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- Has a sore throat with a fever
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- Has symptoms that keep your child from participating in school, such as:
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 - Very tired or lack of appetite
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 - Cough that he/she cannot control
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 - Headache, body aches , or earache
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24 Hour Rule:

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- FEVER: Keep your child home until his or her FEVER has been gone without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours. Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours. Returning to school too soon may slow recovery and make others sick.
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- VOMITING or DIARRHEA: Keep your child home for 24 hours after the LAST time he or she vomited or had diarrhea.
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- ANTIBIOTICS: Keep your child home for 24 hours after the FIRST dose of antibiotics for anything like an ear infection or strep throat.
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Please help others from becoming sick by keeping your child home if he or she is ill. One sick child can spread germs to all his or her classmates. For more information, or if you have questions, please contact the Welch Health Office.