

**UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY BULLETIN  
DECEMBER 2016**

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER:

Thurs., 12/1 through 12/8	Santa's Secret Shop (Check with your child's teacher for specific dates/times)
Wed., 11/30 & Thurs. 12/1	Woodruff Boys Basketball Tryouts until 4:15
Fri., 12/2	<b>Teacher In Service – 12:45 Dismissal</b>
Sat., 12/3	PTO Breakfast with Santa – Seabrook School Santa's Secret Shop and Crafters
Mon., 12/5	PTO Meeting – 6:30PM
Thurs., 12/8	Moore & Woodruff Schools Winter Concert – 6:30PM at the Moore School
Tues., 12/13	Board of Education Meeting – 7PM – Woodruff School Library
Wed., 12/14	Family Night – No Homework
Thurs., 12/15	Dessert Theatre at Woodruff 7 PM –
Fri., 12/16	Mid Marking Period #2 Blue & Gold Day Dessert Theatre at Woodruff 7 PM –
Sat., 12/17	Dessert Theatre at Woodruff 2 PM and 7 PM
Tues., 12/20	Seabrook School Winter Concert – 6:30PM
Fri., 12/23–Mon., 1/2	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED – CHRISTMAS BREAK – MERRY CHRISTMAS!!</b>

**School Closing Information:** As the weather is changing, it is important for your information to be updated in our system. Please assist the district by updating your contact information as we use the phone system to notify the parents and students of closing information. If you have an email address, please provide this information to us as well since we are looking to add this feature to our information system. In addition, 6ABC, NBC10, WSNJ, calling into our main number of (856) 455-2267, and our district website will provide you with closing information as well.

**Schools Closed/Early Dismissal:** Schools will be closed on December 23 through January 2 for the Christmas/Winter break. There will be an early dismissal 12:45pm on Friday, December 2 for in-service.

**School District Website:** [www.udts.org](http://www.udts.org) Be sure to visit our website for important announcements and information. You can put money in your child's lunch account, review board meeting notes, visit teacher webpages for information, and access your child's grades in the parent portal of the GENESIS program.

**School Breakfast:** Each day breakfast is available for all our students in our schools. Please make sure your child starts the day with breakfast either at home, or in our cafeterias in Moore, Seabrook, or Woodruff School. **Please note it is important to have your child to school on time as breakfast is served until 8:00am in all three schools to maximize the instructional time of the school day.**

**Bus Safety:**

- All students who ride the bus, as required by law, are to remain seated at all times with their seatbelts on. There are no exceptions and students who do not adhere to the bus rules and bus safety will be subject to disciplinary action which can include a loss of bus riding privileges.
- It is important for parents to be at the bus stop when the students are being returned from school after dismissal. When students have to be returned to school if there is no one to meet the student, the bus drivers are late for their other designated pick-up and return. If there is a regular occurrence of students being returned to our schools, bus privileges will be suspended and the student will be placed in our CER program for parent pick-up with the \$15 daily rate being applied as a charge to the parents/guardians.
- Students are reminded to arrive at their assigned bus stop and wait for the bus in an orderly manner. Running, pushing, playing games or doing something to put yourself or others in danger is prohibited and students violating this code of conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Safety Matters:** Parents are reminded to adhere to the drop off and pick up zones at times of arrival (7:40 – 8:00) and dismissal (2:15). In addition, please do not block the parking lots by double parking or parking in the access lanes. There are parking spaces available during after school pick up and we ask that you please use them. We are looking into improving our parking areas in the future to provide for more parking. It is important to keep safety at the

forefront. Blocking cars creates an unsafe situation and, in the event of an emergency, prevents responders from gaining access to our buildings. Finally, please make sure you call the office if your child(ren) are not taking the bus home and state whether there will be a pick up or CER. Please do not, under any circumstance, arrive at a bus in line and try to take your child home from the bus. This is a serious safety matter that puts you, your child(ren), staff, bus drivers, and students in a potentially safety and security risk. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Building Security and Safety:** Please remember to sign in when entering the buildings and wear your visitor badge while visiting classrooms. In addition, in the event of an emergency, parents are reminded to refrain from coming to or calling the schools and the cell phone of your child. Our communication with the emergency responders – State Police; Upper Deerfield Emergency Management; County First Responders; and all emergency personnel needing access to our parking lots and buildings needs to be the priority. While we understand the concern, it is imperative that the responders are able to do their jobs as quickly and efficiently as they can during emergency situations. Time is of the essence and the fewer impediments the trained personnel have to deal with, the more effectively they can address the emergency and keep our students and staff safe in the event of an actual emergency.

**PTO:** The Upper Deerfield Township PTO meets the first Monday of each month in the Seabrook School Media Center. These meetings begin at 6:30PM. All are welcome to attend and support the PTO in their mission to assist all our schools in the district. Please note this month's meeting will be on Monday, December 5. Please join the PTO if you haven't done so and also contact the PTO if you are able to assist with any of the activities in our schools.

**Board of Education:** The Upper Deerfield Township Board of Education meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted, at 7:00 PM in the Woodruff School Library. This month's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13. Please note this date change to the second Tuesday due to the Christmas/Winter Break.

**Dessert Theatre:** The annual Woodruff School Dessert Theatre will be held on December 15, 16, and 17. This year's performance "Aladdin Jr." features many talented performers under the direction of Mr. Lau and his performing arts crew. Show times for "Aladdin Jr." will be December 15 and 16 at 7:00 PM and two shows on December 17, a 2:00 PM matinee and a 7:00pm show in the evening. Please come out and view a performance that is second to none and shown exclusively in Upper Deerfield. We are one of a few select schools in the country presenting this show as part of New York's I-Theatrics program.

**Parent Portal:** If you haven't received your parent portal information or have not requested it as yet, please contact the Moore School or Woodruff School to obtain this information. You can view grades and assignments on the website under each teacher's webpage.

**Being at School:** Regular attendance in school sets up a good pattern for your child's entire school career. Show him/her that school comes first by trying to only use days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, schedule routine doctor and dental appointments for after school or over school breaks.

**Progress Reporting:** Eight times per year the district reports progress on each student. This is done at the mid-marking period and end of the marking period via the progress report and report card. Please review your child's progress at these intervals. If there are questions or concerns regarding the progress of your child, please contact the teacher as soon as possible for further assistance.

**Family Night:** Upper Deerfield Township School District recognizes the importance of family and spending time together. Each month we will designate one night as family night and no homework will be assigned in the district on these nights. For the month of December this night will be Wednesday, December 14.

**Mark Your Calendars:**

**Seabrook Winter Concert at 6:30pm in the Seabrook School Cafeteria – December 20.**

**Moore and Woodruff Combined Winter Concert at 6:30pm in the Moore School Auditorium - December 8.**

**Santa's Secret Shop begins December 1 and runs through December 8.**

**Quotes Worth Quoting:**

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."-Calvin Coolidge-

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree". -Roy L. Smith-

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace"- Pope Francis-

**A Christmas Note:**

At Christmas, A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year;  
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas season's here;  
Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the months before,  
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.  
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;  
When the Christmas spirit rules him he comes close to the sublime...  
~Edgar Guest

On behalf of our district of Upper Deerfield, we wish all a Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.