On Thursday, December 5th, students from the West High School shared the story of Auntie Claus by Elise Primavera with our CREC students. In addition to spreading the message that it is far better to give than to receive, our students watched the WHS Show Choir sing and dance to Elvis Presley's "Santa Bring My Baby Back." They then took part in singing and gesturing with performers the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Everyone had a great time!
On November 22nd, second graders had Safety Town assemblies, presented by Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Safety Town is a program designed to teach children about many everyday safety issues including but not limited to car seats, bus stop safety, and discussions about stranger danger.

CREC welcomed guest readers from St. Luke's Health Network on Friday, November 22nd. Employees, from various branches throughout Monroe County, read the beloved book by Dr. Seuss titled Oh, the Places You'll Go! A copy of the book was donated to all classes and every student got a special bookmark.

On Friday, December 6th, the families of Mrs. Bayley's first grade students had the opportunity to share a holiday food or tradition with the class. After a short presentation on holiday traditions around the world, students and parents shared their traditions with the class. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to taste a variety of delicious traditional foods. Pastelitos, flan, sweet potato pie, pumpkin brownies, tomato soup spice cake, and butter cookies were sampled. Students also made a special ornament that holds a ribbon that measures their height for 2019. It is hoped they will start a new tradition of pulling out the ribbon and comparing their height over the years. Students and parents had a great time!
Promoting Good Attendance All Winter Long

This is the time of year when winter weather and children's illnesses can take a toll on school attendance. But it's important to get your children to school every day possible. There's not much we can do about the weather, but there are two key steps every parent can take to help avoid absences this year: (1) Make back-up plans for bad weather; (2) Keep your children healthy.

- It's important to find a way to get your child to school, even when the weather is bad. If you're having trouble getting your child to the bus stop or school, reach out to other families.
- Do what you can to keep your children healthy. Dress them warmly for the cold weather and make sure they've got hats and gloves. Encourage them to wash their hands regularly, and send them to school with a bottle of hand sanitizer.
- Help your child learn to persevere. Today he/she learns to overcome a snowdrift. In the future, he/she will have the grit to triumph over even greater obstacles to his/her dreams.
- If your children are sick, talk to your doctor or the school nurse to see whether they are too sick for school.

Absences, even if they are excused, can add up to academic trouble. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. Children who miss too much school in kindergarten are less likely to read well by third grade. By middle school, absenteeism can predict who will graduate from high school.

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

William Bird

Top sellers for our Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale in November included:

1. Jeremiah Ynfante — 101 boxes
2. Arianna Acevedo — 26 boxes
3. Ava Tyndall — 26 boxes

All profits from this fundraiser support our Super Paw Program.
Share Your Story: Say Their Name

On Thursday, November 21st, our PTO hosted a workshop with author Kathleen Hathaway Mitchel. As pointed out by Kathy, the holiday season can be particularly difficult for those who have lost a loved one. Kathy encourages families to say their loved ones name, and provided a handout of ideas for doing so:

- Have a piece of jewelry made with your loved one’s name, picture, or fingerprint
- Buy an ornament with your loved one’s name
- Create a memorial page or website about your loved one
- Display your loved one’s artwork in frames, shadow boxes, photo albums, or paperweights
- Get a tattoo of loved one’s name
- Have a star named after your loved one
- Make clothing into quilts, bears, dolls, purses, or wreaths
- Make a quilt using photographs of your loved one
- Have a new family picture taken, and include a large picture of your loved one or an object that reminds you of your loved one
- Talk about your child and include them in conversations by sharing stories
- Practice random acts of kindness in your loved one’s name
- Start a scholarship in your loved one’s name
- Lead workshops and teach about cancer, AIDS, DUI or something you feel will help others, in memory of your loved one

Please remember that students should not bring toys to school. In addition to toys often being a disruption to the educational environment, look-alike firearms and weapons (toy guns and knives) or any other item which could or would be a threat to students, himself/herself, or the school community violates the school district’s weapons policy. Such a violation could result in serious disciplinary action, such as a suspension or expulsion.

Please reinforce with your child that these items are not permitted in school and could lead to a serious consequence. It is recommended that you monitor what is in your child’s bookbag so that disciplinary actions can be avoided.
FIRST IN MATH®
Energizing Every Child to Learn, Love & Live Math™

As of December 6th, our top 5 second grade teams, with their sticker counts, include:
(1) Schovitz—18,900  (4) Doughton—16,532
(2) Spady—18,191  (5) Cassidy—16,362
(3) Carey—17,486

As of December 6th, our top 5 first grade teams, with their sticker counts, include:
(1) Gratkowski—16,587  (4) Bayley—8,122
(2) Kemmerer—16,289  (5) 7,438
(3) Fry—14,313

Holidays are a time for friends and families to enjoy spending time with one another. Face-to-face time with one another is always best. However, if your children are going to use technology, please consider encouraging them to practice their basic facts with First in Math. Kindergarten students have access to a similar math program called Splash Math. Both programs can be accessed through our school website.

Our Math Support Teachers
Mrs. Moletsky, Ms. Walsh, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Gorski

First in Math Fanatics

Second graders are invited to participate one CREC's newest clubs — First in Math Fanatics. This club meets every Monday and Wednesday morning. Students are encouraged to earn stickers by completing online tasks which focus on fact fluency, problem solving, and other math skills. Incentives such as paw passes, Super Paws, and prizes are awarded as the students earn stickers through their hard work. Isaiah Lucas was the first 1,000 sticker earner for the club!

This club will continue through May 2020. Kristin Kemmerer is the proud advisor.

Enjoy Your Winter Break!

Happy Holidays!
Schools are closed from December 23rd — January 1st.
Students return back to school on Thursday, January 2nd.