

**WALT DISNEY MAGNET SCHOOL**  
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Kathleen Hagstrom, Ed. D., Principal  
Gisela Velez – Assistant Principal  
Gary Norcross – Early Childhood Director  
Milagro Collazo – Intermediate Level Director  
Sergio Mojica – Upper Level Director  
Thomas Montoye – Chief Engineer

To: Disney Parents  
From: Kathleen Hagstrom, Principal  
Re: Assorted Matters

December 21, 2011

- **Winter Break** – Begins **Saturday, December 24** (Full day of school December 23). Students Return **Monday, January 9, 2012**.

- **January Non-Attendance Days** – Please mark your calendar for the following non-attendance days for students:

**Monday, January 16** – Martin Luther King Day

**Friday, January 27** – Professional Development Day

- **Congratulations** – We are proud to announce the winners of the school science fair, all of whom will advance to the Network level fair. Our students representatives are: Ethan Alanis (6<sup>th</sup> grade project: *Thirsty?*), Melissa Yuen (7<sup>th</sup> grade project: *Companion Planting & Individual Planting*), and Madeleine Zimmerman (8<sup>th</sup> grade project: *Radon: What you can't see can hurt you*). Best of luck to each of you. Many parents attended the Disney Band, Chorus and Blue Man Group concert on Tuesday. It was a wonderful concert led by our talented music team – Ms. Aherne and Mr. Fahrenbach. We also recognize the hard work of our student 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams who just participated in the Panther Sportsmanship Invitational Tournament. The boys' team placed second and the girls' team placed first. The regular schedule of games will begin in January; stay tuned for that schedule.

- **Longer School Day Planning** - We have been exploring the longer school day for next year. A preliminary meeting of some parents and students was held this morning to begin the process. More information will be forthcoming as this process proceeds.

- **Gifted Classrooms' CAC Unit** - The gifted classrooms will be in the CAC during the week of January 9 – 13. Parents will be invited to visit the students' "Cultural Centers" on **Friday, January 13** at 9:30 a.m. We remind you, children under 5 are not invited; we are able to accommodate only those who are 5 years and older.

- **PAC**- The next PAC meeting is **Friday, January 13** at 8:15 a.m. Mr. Mojica, Upper Floor Director, will be presenting.

- **PTA** - The next regular PTA meeting is **Tuesday, January 10**, in the morning.

- **LSC** - the next Local School Council meeting is **Monday, January 9**, at 5:30 p.m.

- **After School All Stars** - The After School All Stars program will be presenting a short holiday show on **Thursday, December 22**, at 2:45 p.m. Parents are invited to attend and the CAC doors will open at 2:35p.m. Admission is through the SW door of the CAC.

- **Morning Drop Off** – Please note, the CAC entrance door will close at 8:00 in the morning; after 8:00 students enter Door 6. We remind parents that all students, except preschool, enter the building from the back. If you are driving, you are encouraged to drop off in one of the parking areas at the back of the school. If you elect to drop children off in front of the school, they will need to walk around the perimeter to the back entrance at door 6.

- **Park District School Bus Transportation** – We have been notified by the Chicago Park District that park district facilities will have a "shut down day" on Friday, December 23. There will be no Park Kids programs on this day; school buses will not drop off at the park districts on Friday, December 23. Regular bus service to school sites will be running per the regular schedule. Families who have approved drop-off at Chicago Park District programs must submit a registration receipt for winter session to the main office.

- **Parent Tip** – Parental stress is very hard to avoid, especially during the holidays. Keep in mind that children generally mirror our moods and anxiety level. Develop your own stress reduction program or strategies. Do not use your children as a sounding board; seek adult friends and or relationships for support. Ask your child to share a Calm Classroom strategy.

We wish each and every family a wonderful holiday break. We hope you will all have time to relax and spend time together. We encourage families to spend time together reading, playing board games, or perhaps visit a city attraction available to families – Zoo Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo, the Christmas Tree at Daley Plaza or any of the many other activities in your communities. We look forward to seeing all of you back on Monday, January 9 – well rested and ready to engage in more learning.