



SOAR to new heights at Botelle School ~ Show self-control, Offer kindness & respect, Achieve your goals & be Ready to learn!

December 1, 2023 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES



12/4	PTO Meeting - 6:00 PM - Cafeteria
12/5	Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 PM - Room #211
12/8	CCMC PJ Day - donate here
12/8	Early Dismissal - 1:00PM - Teacher PD
12/12	Hour with the Administrators - 5:30 - 6:30PM - Botelle
12/18	Chorus to Meadowbrook - Holiday Performance
12/19, 20, & 21	Holiday Fair - Hall of Flags - mornings
12/18 - 12/22	Holiday Spirit Week for Staff & Students - Flyer will be sent home
12/22	Winter Sing-A-Long Concert - 2:00PM
12/25 - 1/1	No School - Winter Break
1/2	Board of Education Meeting - 6:00PM - Room #211
1/12	Early Dismissal - 1:00PM - Teacher PD
1/15	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

NEWS FROM THE PTO

The Botelle Annual Holiday Fair will be held December 19, 20 & 21. As in years past we're again asking for donations of 10 new/unused gifts (ex. Dollar Spot Items from Target) from families. Parent Volunteers are also needed. Any parent, grandparent or guardian can volunteer. Click this link to sign up. [Botelle Elementary School: Botelle Holiday Fair \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

NEWS FROM THE NORFOLK LIBRARY

Our last Merrymakers for 2023 was held on Monday, November 27th. We will resume in the new year. Watch for updates in the newsletter for our new start date in 2024.

THE NORFOLK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department presents its 31st Annual Breakfast with Santa at the Battell Chapel on December 2nd from 7am to 10am. \$13 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$8 for children ages 6-12, and children 5 and under are free. If you have any questions call (860) 542-5654.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

There are a few things I would like to mention and remind families about.

1. The Lion's Club was out today to perform the annual vision screenings that are state required for schools. If your student receives a referral notification as a result from the screening parent's will receive a paper copy of the screening results. This screening is to only identify and inform the need for further evaluation by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. The screening does not provide diagnosis. If your student receives a referral the paper copy of the screening results can be used as information for the doctor. Therefore I encourage you to take it with you to your child's appointment. Screening results notification is only sent to those students who have been referred for further evaluation. If you would like a copy of your student's screening results please contact the Health Office via email at nurse@botelleschool.org.
2. The Brooker Memorial Dental Clinic at Botelle School will be starting this month. Please return the yellow form indicating if you would like your child to participate in this program. If you check yes on this paper please complete the associated forms that go along with it. If you need new forms please let me know and I can get them to you.
3. The cold weather has arrived. Just a friendly reminder that we do go outside for recess as long as the temperature is 20 degrees counting the wind chill. Please have your children dress appropriately to play outside in the cold weather. Children are required to have boots and snow pants in order to play in the snow. Please pack extra clothes, including socks, to keep in their backpacks. This will prevent mid day phone calls to parents requesting dry clothes to be brought to school. The Health Office does have some clothes for emergencies but the supply and sizes are extremely limited.

CCMC PJ DAY

We are raising money for CCMC and children who are fighting cancer. Our goal was to raise \$100. Thanks to you, we've already reached and exceeded our goal! To date, we have raised \$255. Donations will be accepted until next Friday. Please donate at our school [site](#) or give your child a dollar to bring to school. Because we reached our goal, we will wear PJs on 12/8 to show our solidarity with the children at CCMC. Here's a [video](#) about PJ Day to learn more.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Throughout December we are having a food drive to *Celebrate All and Create Community*. The donated food will stock the shelves of the Norfolk Food Pantry located at the Battell Chapel in the center of town. Today, a volunteer from the food pantry, Marie Christine Perry, visited and taught our students about the importance of the food pantry, what students can donate, and why some families might need the help of the food pantry. All students left with ideas of what they can donate - pasta, canned vegetables, evaporated milk, and macaroni and cheese were just a few ideas shared. The most important message was to donate non-perishable food you love - others will love it too!

Our Student Council is sponsoring the food drive in conjunction with our Love Being Kind Challenge. They created boxes for each classroom to collect the donations and will keep track of how many items have been donated. Our goal is for each classroom to collect 50 food items. If we reach

that goal we will send 200 food items to the pantry. Each week Student Council members will announce the class totals and the school totals. Help us achieve this goal by sending in non-perishable food items throughout the month of December.

Our One Book, One School selection for December connects to our kindness and food insecurity theme. Last Stop on Market Street by Matt De La Pena, tells the story of a boy and his grandmother who volunteer their time to serve food at the local soup kitchen. He learns the importance of kindness and community, something we value at Botelle and in Norfolk. Our small school with a big HEART motto is more than words. We practice this within our school and out in the community too. When students attend a school where they feel safe and connected, they are able to learn more and more! Our students are SOARing to new heights each and every day.