



# The Crater Connection

## From Mr. Fisher's Desk.....

Dear Crater Parents,

The Holidays are now here! My kids get so excited for the tree, Santa and all the other excitement that comes with the holidays. Coming from the climate of Baker City I am unsure how to handle the question from my kids on Christmas morning, "where is the snow Daddy?"

For many of our kids, the craziness of the holidays can be challenging and overwhelming. The over-stimulation, late nights and busyness of the season can lead to stressed, tired and cranky kids during the school day. You can help your child by keeping as normal of a schedule as possible and prioritizing the amount of rest and sleep that your child needs. At school, our staff will do their best to keep a normal academic schedule; maintaining normal routines of teaching and learning.

During the holidays, it's easy to get overwhelmed by obligations. Sometimes we forget to take time to be with and share time with our kids. Here are some ways to help your family feel more connected to each other:

**Put laughter on your to-do list.** Find ways to inject humor into daily life. Watch comedies on TV, look for the lighter side in household chores, tell jokes at dinner, read the comics together.

**Make giving a family affair.** Doing for others helps kids realize the world is bigger than they are and that people need their help. Try making dinner for a needy family, walking for a worthy cause, or giving your spare change to an organization that helps others.

**Play hide and treat.** Tuck notes or treats into special places – under a pillow, in a lunch box or in a pocket. Let other family members know you are thinking of them no matter how busy you are with holiday preparations.

**Play a game together.** Take time to enjoy each other's company. Encourage kids to play for the joy of playing, not winning.

I love the holidays and look forward to the season and time with my family. It is a special time and I hope you and your family enjoy this time of the year.

As always, thank you for the support you provide our teachers, students and classrooms. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Troy Fisher  
Principal

Website: [www.newberg.k12.or.us/antoniacrater](http://www.newberg.k12.or.us/antoniacrater)

## UPCOMING

### EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

- Dec. 3: PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM
- Dec. 6: Popcorn Sale
- Dec. 9 - 19: Crater Sharing Tree
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 6: NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

#### JANUARY

- Jan. 1: Happy New Year!!
- Jan. 6: NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
- Jan. 7: School Resumes
- Jan. 14: PTO Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- Jan. 17: Popcorn Sale
- Jan. 20: NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day
- Jan. 31: NO SCHOOL - Report Card Day

#### FEBRUARY

- Feb. 17: NO SCHOOL - President's Day





## Homework

Ask about homework daily. For many children, simply getting ready to do homework is a tough job. Here's a checklist of questions to ask your child regularly:

- What are your assignments today?
- Do you understand what to do?
- When is the homework due?
- Do you need any special supplies, such as poster board or library books?
- If a project is long-term, what steps will it take to finish it?

## SHARING TREE

The Annual Sharing Tree will once again be set up outside the main office December 9 - 19. It will be decorated with "ornament tags" that are each labeled with a specific item. Any student/family may select ornament tags from the tree, purchase the item listed on the tag and return the items under the tree by December 19th. Food boxes are then packed and will be delivered anonymously to Crater Families during Winter Break.



## Student Achievement

I was surprised to read that fewer than half of all American adults regularly read literature. This is according to a survey titled Reading at Risk, conducted by the NEA. The study defined a regular literary reader as someone who reads 12 or more novels, short stories, poetry, or plays a year. This is the lowest number ever-recorded in modern history, and does not bode well for our society. Children mimic what they see. Please model reading (and enjoyment of reading) in your own home. It will only help your child succeed in school, and in life. Reading is one of the most powerful parent behaviors that aid development of children's cognitive abilities. Television (and other types of screen time) also provides a negative impact. A recent study by Christakis (2004) established that each hour of television that a child watches between the ages of 1 and 3 years old increases by 10 percent the risk that the child will have attention problems. Other factors influencing student achievement include parent availability, student mobility (consistency and staying in one place are best), and parent participation in the child's education.

Check out the Crater Web Page for the latest information about school happenings.  
<http://www.newberg.k12.or.us/crater/>

## DECEMBER & JANUARY CALENDAR UPDATES

**Monday, December 23rd**  
**through**

**Friday, January 3rd**  
*NO SCHOOL*  
*Winter Break*

**Monday, January 6th**  
*NO SCHOOL*  
*Staff Development*

**Tuesday, January 7th**  
*SCHOOL RESUMES*



## Lost and Found

Don't forget to check Lost and Found the next time you are in the building. We are beginning to collect several items. All clothing that is not claimed before Winter Break will be donated to Charity.

