

# Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

✧Respect✧Responsibility✧Community✧

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December 10, 2021

I have a ton of information for you all before our weekend begins:

- 1) Baldwin students and staff will be collecting new socks, all sizes, from Dec. 6th-17th to benefit area clothes closets and homeless shelters. Homerooms will be competing for the most pairs contributed and the winning homeroom will earn 5 bulldog bucks and free ice cream. Two sixth-grade students, Levi Laisi and Ethan Ayers have been organizing this event. Please consider donating new, unused socks by sending them in with your student to be turned in during their homeroom. Thank you for helping us to provide socks to our community members in need!
- 2) As the holiday season gets underway, please make sure that you keep your students home if they have any cold or flu symptoms. We have continued to be successful in keeping our students in school and the greatest way we can avoid sending students home is by having families keep their students home when ill. Thank you for your help in keeping our Baldwin students safe.
- 3) Today was PJs for a purpose. Dr. Helen Baldwin raised over \$200 in support of the CT Children's Medical Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders. Thank you for your support!
- 4) Parents, please discuss appropriate mask-wearing with your student(s). If we have students not wearing masks appropriately, we are forced to quarantine everyone around them if they develop Covid-19. This puts other families in a challenging and unfair position. Moving forward, for students who continually fail to wear their masks, we will be considering additional restrictions and consequences. Please remember, at the end of the day my goal is to keep all of our students in school. Together, we will get through this.
- 5) It is that time of the year where students need to make sure they bring their coats, hats, and gloves to school for recess. We do not have spare clothing and with temperatures dropping, we want to ensure all students are warm while outside. In addition, we will have outdoor recess, even when it snows. Please ensure your child wears boots to school (or brings them with them to school to change into).
- 6) Spirit wear will be delivered to your child's homeroom next week. Due to shipping delays, please know that we may have some back-ordered items. We understand this is disappointing, but Danielson Surplus is doing everything they can to get us our items as quickly as possible. I myself can't wait for my quarter zip!
- 7) The week of December 20-23 will be spirit week. Each day will have a theme:
  - a) Monday 12/20- Winter White Out (dress in all white)
  - b) Tuesday 12/21- Holiday hat day

- c) Wednesday 12/22- Wear your favorite holiday colors
  - d) Festive sweater day
- 8) Today I sent home information about our new E-Sports league. Vanta Leagues will be sponsoring a free winter league for our students, which includes 2 practices a week and one game each weekend. The league will be hosted by a fully-vetted adult, who will work with students on appropriate gaming and reducing emotional outbursts while gaming. If your student is interested, please have them sign up before the end of the day on 12/23.
- 9) Homerooms will be starting a Snowman Decorating Contest in their homerooms to kick off the holiday season and winter festivities. Each homeroom will be given 3 large white circles to use as their Snowman and all other decorations are up to each homeroom. Homeroom teachers will divide their homeroom students into 3 groups so each group will take part in decorating one part of the Snowman. Homerooms have the creative freedom to give their snowman a theme, decorate it using items around the classroom, recyclables, upcycled items, etc. We encourage students to think outside the box when decorating their Snowman by using recycled materials to make their Snowman as creative and festive as possible. The homeroom with the most creative Snowman decoration will win a fun prize! Each homeroom will display their Snowman outside their classroom for the rest of the school to enjoy throughout the holiday season and through the winter. If you have any items students can use for this decorating competition, please send them in with your child next week. It will be so helpful and students will have that much more to work with. We can't wait to see what students create!
- 10) Putnam High School is now a high school option (without transportation) and students are able to shadow if they are interested. If your student would like to take part in a shadow day at Putnam High School, please have them see Mrs. Zuckerman.
- 11) Free, New, Warm Winter Coats for Local Children in need. Sunday, December 19, 2021, 3:00 p. m. until 6:00 pm at the Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus Hall, 64 Providence Street in Putnam, Connecticut. SANTA will be there! ALL LOCAL CHILDREN IN NEED OF A WINTER COAT ARE INVITED, with their parents or guardians, to be fitted for a brand new, free, WARM winter coat they can wear home. No charge, no obligation-for children ages 3 to 17 REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, ETHNICITY OR ANY CRITERIA. Children's sizes: available Small to Extra Large, in styles for Boys and Girls, with various colors to choose from. For information, please call Grand Knight John D. Ryan, at (860) 928-7241.

Wow, that was a ton of information! Have a great weekend everyone! As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Mr. Dukette

Principal, Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School