

To the parents and families of the D@W community,

We have flown through December, enjoyed a thorough break and have wrapped up January! We hope you all had a warmly fulfilling holiday season and are happy to be back to routine. Here's a quick recap on the internal workings of D@W over the past weeks.

To kick off December, we had our annual Holiday Concert, which was a wonderful time- thank you all for making it possible! We carried the festive energy with us back to Waring, making felt Christmas scenes in art, Graham Cracker houses in French, Rich's famous homemade chocolate turtles in science and showed our gratitude to those who help keep D@W running via home-*decorated* sugar cookies! Although it may seem like just fun and games, we did manage to get academics in there as well.

We had our first visit of the year over to Devereux to teach the graders a math lesson. When given leadership opportunities like this, the kids absolutely soar! This month we achieved our first ever publication of the D@W United Magazine (with LOTS of help from Stéphanie, Meghan and Jackie!) The kids put a lot of hard work into it, making it such a treat to see come to life! If you would like a copy please let us know. As a class we learned how to combat winter weather needs by refilling windshield wiper fluid before bundling up and heading to the stream in the snow with Rich to collect water samples. Keeping our eyes on the snow-covered field, we tried to identify any animal tracks we saw along the way.

In wrapping up our Ancient Greece unit we hosted a Poetry Café takeover of Greek gods and goddesses! The students did such wonderful jobs researching, configuring, impersonating, and presenting their individual deities. Incredible work everyone! Before saying our goodbyes for the holiday break, we participated in Special Day with the Waring students and staff. One group went caroling at the Beverly Council on Aging, another made press pots in the pottery studio for the Gloucester Food Pantry and a third group stayed on campus to watch movies and knit blankets for premature babies. After giving back throughout the morning, we returned to the classroom to open our stockings of warm & fuzzies, and enjoy some treats while watching *The Muppet's Christmas Carol*. It is such a charming opportunity we are given every year to see the kids cozied up like Christmas morning, but at school! To continue the spirit of giving, the kids performed their Christmas song for the entire Waring community during All School Meeting. They are so brave and the Waring community truly loved it!

Fast forward to January and the momentum continues! We started the new school year on the French holiday 'l'epiphanie' so, naturally, we celebrated with la galette des rois (compliments of Clara- thank you!). It was a truly unique cultural experience as Madame instructed Julian (the youngest in the class) to hide in the closet and tell her to whom she was giving each piece of cake. Whoever received 'la fève' (the hidden figurine inside) became king/queen for the day, which was Clara! The kids' bellies were satisfied as they put their energy and attention into preparing for the upcoming French competition *Le Grand Concours*. They continue to work hard with Madame on vocabulary, pronunciation and making logical connections between the French and English languages. For math, the 4th graders continue to work with multiplication and division while the 5th graders work with decimal, fraction and percent equivalents. In humanities we continue to read *Tales from the Odyssey* by Mary Pope Osborne (seriously, it was a long journey Odysseus took!) and in spelling Veyla has introduced Greek and Latin roots, helping the kids become familiar with their meanings to help them decode all the languages they use.

Outside of the classroom the kids put their minds into creating self propelling cars in Maker Space, finding moments of troubleshooting and redesigning as they observed the success or failure of their car's trajectory. In art, Nicole introduced 3-D pop up cards and bulb dolls. The kids used their creativity in their multi-level pop up cards and fashioned their bulbs in custom made outfits. Both of these projects came out awesome! Taking to the woods for Health & Wellness, we observed how nature reacts to winter while grounding our energy and breathing in some good ol' O₂ and taking advantage of our surroundings. This month we took our very first Health & Wellness field trip to the James McVann-O'Keefe Skating Rink in Peabody where the kids truly demonstrated how much of a loving, supportive community through kind acts and encouraging words. In theater we have been very busy writing our original fairy tale hybrid play, which we had "auditions" for and will be performing come late spring (stay tuned!). Speaking of performing, we are already practicing for the spring concert with Kristina! Through play, movement and practicing harmonies she is preparing us for both the Waring Spring Concert and the Devereux Spring Concert. Just you wait and see what we have in store! The D@W All School Meetings continue to keep us entertained- Clara sharing with us her experience as part of the Boston Ballet's Nutcracker this past season and Camille challenging our palates with various hot sauces in "The Hot Sauce Challenge". The 5th graders had their two day visit to Waring this

month, which went swimmingly (the challenge now is keeping them *mentally* here!). While the 5th graders were away, the 4th graders went to the Peabody Essex Museum to see the newest exhibit and join in on a scavenger hunt. We ended our “4th graders only” field trip with lunch and smoothies at Front Street Café. This time with the 4th graders is a treat each and every year. With the lack of snow, it hardly feels like winter, yet we eagerly await the beautiful blossoms of spring! In science with Rich we harvested some magnolia, forsythia, and cherry branches to force them into bloom inside. We are observing their development through sketches in class. In wrapping up January we welcomed Julian to the official “10 years old” club (happy birthday Julian!) and recognized the Chinese Lunar New Year with a feast of Chinese food which ended with an authentic Tawainese rice cake (you sure have a sweet tooth Clara!! Thank you again!) As we proceed into February we look forward to moving on to our next unit- Fairy Tales!

Until next time!

Kasey, Veyla, and Madame Virginie