Welcome back and Happy New Year! Thank you to all the families that participated in the CPS/Chicago Bulls Holiday Food Drive. Disney collected over 5,800 non-perishable food items to be distributed by the Greater Chicago Food Depository! It was a very worthwhile project that spurred friendly competition among classrooms and provided students an opportunity to feel good about helping others. Pod 300 collected the most items and earned an extra recess before winter break. Classrooms that collected the most were Ms. Thompson, Ms. Herceg, Ms. Brannigan, Mr. Earles and Mr. Szymanski. We just learned that we placed third in CPS school collection! Thank you one and all.

Congratulations to our school wide spelling-bee winner, 5th grade student Rhea G. She will compete for an opportunity to move on to the network and city wide level spelling bee.

-Progress Reports – Second quarter progress reports will go home with the students Friday, January 8. Second quarter report cards will be sent home with students on Thursday, February 11.

-Local School Council – The next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, at 5:30 p.m. All Disney parents are welcome.

-Pod 100 CAC Unit – Our first grade students are hard at work in the CAC on their arts-integrated unit, Animal Adaptations and Bio-mimicry. Please consult with your child’s teacher for volunteer needs. Their culminating activity will be Friday, January 22, at 9:00 a.m., in the CAC. All parents are invited; we remind you that children under 5 are not allowed to attend CAC shows; no exceptions. The first grade students work very hard to prepare for the show and this is their time to shine for you.

-Parent Advisory Committee – PAC will host a Coffee and Conversation Friday, January 22. Parents are welcome to come and meet PAC representatives and chat with other parents. There will be a presentation on 1st grade curriculum. The meeting will be held in the CAC Dining Room and begins at 7:30 a.m. Parents who are planning to attend the pod 100 CAC show, will be escorted to the CAC after the presentation. If you want to learn more about PAC, you may reach them via email at PAC@gmail.com.

-Parent Teacher Association – Movie Night is Friday, January 29. If you have questions on membership or volunteering with PTA, please reach out to PTA at info@waltdisneypta.org.

-2016 My Voice, My School Survey – Students in our upper grades will be given an opportunity to complete an online CPS survey this winter called My Voice, My School. The survey will ask students about their experiences in school, including school safety, school work, teacher support and future plans. Student answers are kept in strict confidence and students are not identified in survey reports. The survey is designed to assist in school improvement; for more information visit: http://www.cps.edu/mvms_surveys or call 866-440-1874.

-Winter Recess – Parents, recess is a daily part of children’s schedule. During winter, weather permitting, students will still be going outside. Please be sure students have appropriate clothing for outside – hats, mittens or gloves and warm coats. Younger children will put on winter boots. Per CPS policy, students will have outdoor recess provided temperature is above 20 degrees with wind chill.

-Winter Activities – For families who want to enjoy an outside event mark your calendar for the 11th annual Polar Adventure Days at Northerly Island. The event will be Saturday January 23 and February 20 from noon – 4 pm. You will be able to tour the Northerly Island Natural Area and see Siberian Huskies, wolves, birds of prey. Nature inspired craft activities, raffle and hot cocoa are among the other enticements. For more info visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312/742-7529.
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