# Cougar e-BLAST

# Friendly Reminders . . .

**Monday, December 17th**

- 5N, 5W, and half of 5C to Challenger @ 9:00am
- Board of Education Meeting at CMS @ 6:00pm

**Thursday, December 20th**

- 5L, 5S, half of 5C to Challenger @9:00am

**Friday, December 21st**

- Winter Class Parties
  - EC AM and Kindergarten @ 10:30am
  - EC PM, 1st – 5th Grade @ 2:15pm

**Monday, December 24th - January 4th**

- Winter Break

**Monday, January 7th**

- School Resumes

## We Need Your Help!

We have had an increase in the amount of last minute phone calls and emails to make changes in students' dismissal routines. We understand that emergencies come up, and from time to time, you need to change your child's dismissal routine. We ask you to keep these times to a minimum to ensure the students' safety.

Please send a note or email to Theresa Hughes, Teri Schramer and your child's teacher **before 2:30** if your child is going to have a change in their usual form of transportation home to allow us ample time to notify both your child and the teacher. If you do not receive a reply back to your email, please call the office to verify the email has been received.

Be sure to include the child's first and last name in the note/email. If your child attends the BASE after school program or daycare and there is a change in plans, please notify the BASE/daycare as well.

**Be sure to check the PTO webpage for information on upcoming events!**

# Mrs. Mack

Due to Mrs. Mack having hip replacement surgery in November, she has been on medical leave since Monday, November 26th. She hopes to return to her classroom after winter break on January 7th. She is pleased to have Mrs. Kris Pasterak subbing for her during her absence. Mrs. Pasterak has a degree in music and has worked as a music teacher. She also substituted as a long-term music sub at Prairie View during the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Pasterak came to meet the students before Mrs. Mack left for her leave and was impressed with what we do at Country Trails.

# 5Essentials Survey

ISBE will conduct its annual survey of learning conditions. The 5Essentials Survey was developed by researchers at the University of Chicago, and provides schools with data on five leading indicators for school improvement: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction. Survey results will be released in June to Principals and Superintendents. A summary of the results will be publicly reported on the State School Report Card website at:

http://illinoisreportcard.com

This year, the window for taking the 5essentials survey is from December 11, 2018 through December 21, 2018.

Research has shown that schools strong on these indicators, the "5Essentials" are 10 times more likely to improve student learning. Your participation in the Illinois 5Essentials Survey will help us understand the conditions of our school and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. Please visit http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/ and find the survey button on the top of the page to take the survey.

# Fun Making Gingerbread Men