

Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoyed your holiday and are as happy as I am to be back into our school routine. January is one of my favorite teaching months - the children are focused and ready to learn and there aren't a lot of distractions. Please remember to mark your child's lunchbox every day with the date and label their winter clothing (and all clothing). Our transitions run so much smoother if we can easily pair a child with his or her belongings. Also, please check the lost and found if you are missing any items so they make their way home to you!

Not this week, but the following week, MLMS will offer Rising Orientations for families to learn about upcoming programs for their children. These sessions are for parents only. Your child may join Laurel Club while you attend the session.

In about a month, we will have our annual Art Gallery Opening. Each child in the school creates a custom piece of art work that is then put on display in a local art gallery along with other artists. There are lots of volunteer opportunities to help make the evening a success. If you would like to volunteer in some capacity, please let me know!

Each school year Mountain Laurel is active in the holiday writing contest at the Samuels Library. The children's librarians are eager to work with our school in any capacity possible. It is such a wonderful library and resource for us all. In the upcoming weeks our class will be participating in author studies of the following authors:

The week of the 7th: Shel Silverstein

The week of the 14th: Cynthia Rylant

The week of the 21st: Herve Tullet

I have asked Ms. Ashby to put a display of these author's books out for our children to enjoy and/or check out. If you visit the library, please look for her display.

Mark your calendar:

January 14th - Rising Primary Orientation - an information session for parents of children who will enter Primary next year

January 15th - Rising Kindergarten Orientation - an information session for parents with children who will be of Kindergarten age next year

January 16th - Rising Elementary Orientation - an information session for parents of children who will be entering Elementary next year

February 15th - Annual Art Gallery Opening at the Blue Ridge Arts Council Gallery on Main Street

We'll see you at school tomorrow!

Carrie