

Tzu Chi Elementary Newsletter

December 2018



A Note from Mrs. Grover

Dear Families,

Everyone join me, let's take 3 big breaths together. 1-2-3! For many of us, we are officially in the busiest time of year. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or have other special traditions; we are all busy planning events, gatherings, shopping, and celebrations. It's a great time of year to spend with love ones, but also a time to make sure we are not forgetting the importance of just enjoying one another. As we move into the focus of "giving" I want to remind you that the best gift you can give your children is the gift of time. I am encouraging you to put down the cell phones, stop the chores, hold the baking and cooking, and **GIVE** 20-30 minutes each night to play, read and enjoy your kids.

Here at school we will be busy planning for the winter festival, learning about different traditions, working hard in the classroom and enjoying one another up until winter break. Please remember to be on time to school and come in uniform! I want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season. I am thankful for all of you and am looking forward to ending 2018 on a good note here at school!

Cheers,
Mrs. Grover

Jing Si Aphorism

"Happiness comes from giving and helping others"
– Master Chen Yen

Important Dates

Please Save to your
calendar:

December 4 –
November Award
Ceremony 8:15am

December 4 – OPEN
HOUSE 6:00-7:00pm

December 14 – Winter
Celebration 3:30-4:30pm –
Formal Uniform

December 21 – Holiday
Dress Day

**NOON DISMISSAL – NO
AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

December 24-January 4
Winter Break

January 7 – School
resumes for all

Happy Holidays!

Character Education

Giving

Thoughts from Ms. Hall, Monrovia 2nd Grade Teacher

In November we talked about being thankful and in December we will focus on giving. It is because we are thankful for the things we have in life that we are giving to others.

Here at Tzu Chi Elementary, we are mindful of modeling the character traits we want to teach our students about. When kids see adults practicing respect, responsibility, thankfulness, and giving, they are presented with good role models and positive concrete examples of how they can apply these sometimes abstract concepts in their lives here at school, at home, and in the community. As a school, we have several fundraisers benefitting everything from the California fires to the feeding the hungry and collecting toys for children in need. It is important for our students to know they too can help, even though they are young, and even though they may be far away from the people who they are helping.

Each morning, we begin the day with a Bamboo Bank Song, where students are invited to donate to Tzu Chi so that their money can be used to help people all over the world. We help them understand that even one penny a day, from every person in the classroom, will add up to a large amount and make a difference in the world.

Our character education curriculum is designed so that every student from kindergarten to fifth grade is focusing on Giving, but there are different, age-appropriate activities and focuses at each grade, deepening their understanding as they progress through the elementary years. Please ask your student about their Character Education class sometime this month, and talk with them about ways they can be giving at home too.



