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# The Cobbler

a newsletter of the Cobb Meadow School

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## What's New

### Tardiness Note

Dear Parents. Please be prompt at pick-up time. The first pick up time is 12:15. Your children begin asking for you as soon as the first parent arrives. It is taxing on the children to wait for a parent that is mysteriously late. The second departure time is 2pm. You may have to arrive by 1:50 in order to be leaving at 2 pm. Ivy and I have other school duties that begin at 2 and need the school to ourselves at that time. Cobb Meadow does not have a policy about tardy parents paying cash immediately when they are more than five minutes late, but many schools do. The usual fee is \$1 per minute!

❖ If you have to be more than 5 minutes late on a pick up, please call the school.

❖ If you have a regular challenge arriving on time, we need to discuss this right away, and see what we can do- putting your head together with other people is a great help in most matters.

Please don't anyone feel singled out- I am reminding you because lateness has recently become more common.

Thank you so much



*Happy New Year, Cobb Meadow families.*

*A belated welcome back to all. I hope you had a relaxing and joyful break. This was a year for my family to stay put in New Hampshire and visit with local friends and loved ones. I am looking forward to January and cozying in at Cobb Meadow with more fires and stories, stitching and sawing.*

*Before break we had several all-school games of Hide and Seek, and I have to say it was great fun for me and Ivy as well as for the children. Games bring all the children together. The most active children have an opportunity to take part in the hiding, being so still and quiet. The children who usually build a house with just one or two friends expand their group of playmates by searching for and hiding from children with whom they may not yet have played. As the group usually plays hide and seek several times in a row, the children who are slower to join an activity have a good long while to watch and see, and then often take turn hiding as well. We have had a few games of hide and seek since the New Year.*

*New projects this month include beard making, rice balls on rice day, and painting on Rice day rather than on cornbread day. We also have added wet sand to free play. As I was preparing our moss garden, I had so much fun playing with the sand the lies under the moss; I decided I had to bring sand in to our class. Currently we are using a long rectangular Tupperware which is big enough for three, at most four children. Beard making and sand play require close attention by adults, and this is an opportunity for you to join us. We will be wet felting our beards with our feet, in dishpans. If you have any morning on which you could come to Cobb Meadow for the first half of the morning, do let me know.*

*The sandbox, like the games, brings together new combinations of children. It seems a place where they can learn about boundaries and sharing. I will hear a child say that someone else knocked down a castle of sand, but all the while the plaintiff may be showing where the castle was, or building up a whole new one, and talking to the other children in a clear, relaxed way. Much of the children's development is based on hands, and sensory input, and weight bearing and fine motor activity. I am very happy to have the sand play indoors while we are all frozen without.*

*Happy Winter, Love Anne*

## Scholarship Fund

CMS Board Members are now working on this year's Cobb Meadow Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in supporting the Cobb Meadow Scholarship fund, however small the donation, please contact Sarah, Jeni or Anne

## Snow Days

We are likely to have a few snow days before spring: here are a few reminders about closings due to inclement weather.

- 1- We will close in the morning if Conval has closed or has a delayed opening
- 2- We may close in the morning even if Conval has decided not to close or delay.
- 3- There were days last year when we opened on time, but realized we had better close at 12:15. This may happen again this year.
- 4- I try to start the phone tree by 7 or 7:15 am, but I am up by 5:30 am. If you need the call earlier than 7, let me know.
- 5- When you are helping me out by following the phone tree, remember to keep calling on down the tree until you speak with an adult. If you have left a message with a machine or a child, please make the next phone call right then.
- 6- If you have misplaced your phone tree please let me know that you need another.
- 7- KEEP THE PHONE TREE WHERE ALL ADULTS CAN FIND AND USE IT.

Thank you so much for all your help and understanding around closings.

## Warm Clothing

Thank you all so much for taking the time to send your child to school with such wonderful and warm outdoor things. We play outside for at least 30 minutes, and the children can be busy and happy in the fresh cold air, if they are dressed well. Sometimes Ivy or I may miss a boot cuff or snow skirt, so please be sure your spare clothing bag is up to date. In case your child is outgrowing their snow clothing, and you are looking for a new set, I will tell you what we have found that works best.

Bib overalls with an effective snow coat is the most versatile and effective combination.

A good snug snow cuff, to keep the snow out of boots is essential. These cuffs take different forms, but you should avoid snow pants that have NO cuff, or pants that only have weak elastic.

Snow pants need to be big enough that your child can crawl in the snow, slide down a hill on their belly, bend over and roll a big snow head or fall over into the snow while trying to roll a big snow head, and all the while the snow pants will not ride up and expose their calves!

A snow skirt is an elastic inside the coat that keeps wind, cold and snow from being jammed up into their coat when your child tries to do all the above. Snow skirts are very effective.

Boys and girls can and do wear tights under their pants. This is a great way to keep them warm while we are outdoors.

Any other tips or suggestions for the community are more than welcome- tell Anne or Ivy.

**Thanks for all your hard work in keeping mittens hats, snow pants and boots together. I appreciate all your organization and searching.**

You can always check: [www.cobbmeadowschool.org](http://www.cobbmeadowschool.org) for additional information and downloads.

## A Dressing Warm RHYME

Long sleeves and tights to  
cover all our skin,  
a fuzzy wuzzy layer, to  
keep us warm within,  
rozy cozy socks, for roasty  
toasty toes,  
snow pants, jackets and  
boots to be sure,  
hat and mittens then out  
the door!

This little rhyme is part of our circle to help your children with the idea of bundling up, but also for body geography, balance, and sensory input over all. We rub our own arms for sleeves and legs for tights, and then stand on one foot, then the other for the socks and toes line. After a sliding motion into snow pants, and a stamping into boots, we take a firm hold on our heads and hands, and finish up circle with good information on just where we are in the room.

## Birthdays

We only had a handful of birthday celebrations thus far- which is so convenient, given that most of our school festivals fall before the New Year. Birthdays will be a more regular occurrence from now until the end of the school year.

## School Calenders

Remember to keep your Cobb Meadow School calendar handy. If you have lost it let me know. Calendars can also be downloaded and printed from our website.