Informational Items:

-Our Mill Stream students and staff were not able to attend the movies prior to Christmas vacation due to the weather. Please be assured that we will be attending the movies at a later time this school year. Once a new date has been determined, a new permission slip will be sent home to families. We are excited to be able to provide this event for our students as it is such a fun experience!

-Please keep in mind that all Pokemon cards need to be kept at home. Unfortunately, the trading of cards can often lead to hurt feelings. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact teachers, Mrs. Lovell or myself with questions or concerns that may arise. When we work together, students will have a great year!

Parenting Tips

Over the next few newsletters, I will be sharing parenting tips that I recently found and wish I had early on when my own kiddos were small. I am hopeful you will find these to be helpful.

**Take charge.** Children crave limits, which help them understand and manage an often confusing world. Show your love by setting boundaries so your kids can explore and discover their passions safely.

**Don't try to fix everything.** Give young kids a chance to find their own solutions. When you lovingly acknowledge a child's minor frustrations without immediately rushing in to save them, you teach their self-reliance and resilience.

Source: www.parents.com
**PTG (Parent/Teacher Group) News**

We hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break. As you are filling in the dates of your 2019 calendars, consider joining us the 1st Wednesday evening of each month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the school library as we plan activities and events to be held throughout the school year. We always welcome new members and new ideas!

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### Dates to Remember . . .

- January 17, 2019  School Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- January 21, 2019  No School

### Cold Weather Reminder

Please be sure your child is prepared to play outside on cold days as students go outside if the temperature is 10 degrees or warmer with the wind chill. Thank you!

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### Attendance Fact

Please note something new this year. The Maine Department of Education is asking districts to now look at chronic absenteeism outside of just truancy. A child is considered to be chronically absent when both of their excused and unexcused absences have reached 10% of the days we have been in school. Attendance reports are run throughout the school year, so please do not be alarmed if you receive a letter. The intent of the letter is informational and is a way for the school to connect with you to see if there is anything we can do to support you with getting your child to school. If you would like further information about chronic absenteeism, please feel free to reach out.

**Did You Know…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses…</th>
<th>That equals…</th>
<th>Which is…</th>
<th>And over 13 years of school that’s…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly ½ year of school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>