



# CEDARVILLE CONNECTION

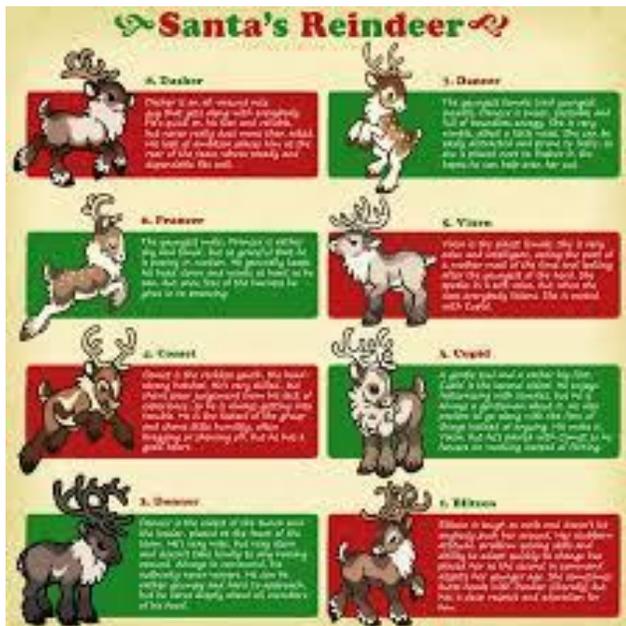
December 11, 2015

Visit us on the web at [www.EACS.k12.in.us](http://www.EACS.k12.in.us)

**Our mission at Cedarville Elementary School is:**  
*To build a solid academic foundation and develop fundamental skills that will lead our students into a lifetime of success.*

## From the Desk of the Principal...

If you're looking for a fun learning activity to share with your child over the winter recess, try this math challenge:



Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, is always in the lead on Santa's sleigh. Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen also have their usual places behind Rudolph. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, and Vixen all like to switch places with each other.



How many different combinations of the last four reindeer could Santa have?

If you want to make it a little easier, try combinations of any three of the reindeer. If you want to bump it up a few notches, try combinations of five, six, seven, or eight reindeer. (Hint: If you're looking for combinations of eight

reindeer, there are a whopping 40, 320 possibilities!)

Over the holidays, I hope that each of you will have the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends, read a book or two to your child, and reflect on the challenges and successes of 2015. May you and your family have a safe and relaxing holiday season, and a prosperous new year!



## Gift-giving Ideas...

If you're looking for a couple of great gift-giving ideas for kids for the holiday season, consider giving a book or board game.

Ogden Nash explains the value and purpose of books in his poem, "TAKE OFF WITH BOOKS".

Take off with books,  
Not with the rocket's roar,  
Take off in silence  
And in fancy soar  
At rocket speed  
To every land and time,  
And see, spread out beneath,  
Past, present, future as you higher climb.

Explore those worlds the rocket cannot reach,  
Troy, Camelot, and Crusoe's lonely beach.  
No path forbid, no darkling secret hid.  
Books reached the moon before real rockets did.

If you decide to give a book as a gift, please be sure to sit down and enjoy it with your child, either by discussing it with him or her or by reading it to him or her.

If you're looking for a way to build math problem-solving or strategy skills, consider games such as Othello, Connect Four, MasterMind, or even Chess. Some other skill-building games include Blokus Duo, Mancala, and Sequence.

While learning to play by the rules of the game is important, it can be an excellent learning experience for your child to "talk through" the strategies or options for making his/her next move. Be flexible (at least as your child is becoming familiar with the game) in allowing

him/her to visualize the outcomes of placing the next game piece. Talk about why he/she might want to move a specific playing piece in Chess. Help him or her “look ahead” to think about the other player’s response to his/her move.

Once your child has become familiar with the rules of the game, have him or her try creating new rules of his/her own. Be sure to write down your child’s rules so that everyone playing the game can follow along. Talk about why rules are important and what makes a “good” rule or what kinds of rules simply don’t work well in a certain type of game.

Other activities that will help your child develop his/her “classroom” skills during the holiday season might be:

- ◆ Create greeting cards. Have your child draw a picture and write a brief story or poem.
- ◆ Bake cookies or brownies (with your child) as gifts for others.
- ◆ Have your child write addresses on greeting card envelopes.

The key is to encourage your child to think creatively – and most of all, to HAVE FUN!



### **Canned/Boxed Food Drive Ends Soon...**

We seem to be doing so much over the holiday season, and our families have been so giving. The final collection days of the food drive are December 14-17. If you wish, we ask that you please share the joy of the Christmas holidays with families in need by bringing non-perishable food items to place under the Christmas tree in the school's front entrance. Canned meats/fish (such as canned beef, tuna, or sardines), canned fruits or vegetables, dry goods, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, laundry products, and paper products will be accepted.



All items will be donated to the Grabill Food Bank. Collection ends Thursday, December 17th.

Best wishes for a safe and prosperous new year!



### **Wellness Tips...**

Want your happiness to grow? Think like a gardener.

**Cultivate your soil.** Just as plants need nourishing soil to grow in, so does happiness. Think of your daily habits as your "soil". Too much work and stress, and not

enough sleep and physical activity, deplete it. Nourish your soil with nutritious food, physical activity, relaxation, quality sleep, and time for friends or family - a pro happiness environment.

**Plant the right seeds.** Planting seeds of happiness takes intention, but it works!! When something positive happens - anything from noticing a beautiful sunset to being offered a job you want - bask in the feeling for 20-30 seconds. That's how long it takes to start to rewire your brain - or plant more seeds. When faced with something difficult, deal with it, but then focus on the positive facts within the situation.

**Water and Sun.** Get plenty of water and sunshine (easier said than done this time of year). Sunlight is the best source of vitamin D. Vitamin D sufficiency has emerged as one of the most important preventive factors in human health & happiness. Do you know your Vitamin D levels? If not, have them checked by your doctor.



### **Food for Thought...**

“There is no need to give lectures or charity if you just give of yourself.”

Walt Whitman



### **EACS Transportation Department = Safety Is First ...**

Although the “official” start of winter is still days away, and it feels like we are in Fort Myers rather than Fort Wayne, the snow and cold that we normally associate with winter in Indiana will someday be upon us. As we all know, the snow and ice can result in slippery road conditions, and the cold can cause even well-maintained vehicles to have mechanical problems. Fortunately, by allowing some extra travel time and exercising extra care on the road, we can improve our odds of arrive safely at our destinations. So it is with our school bus drivers. As temperatures fall, our drivers allow time for the bus engines to “warm up”. As roads become (or remain) slippery or snow-covered, our bus drivers adjust their speeds accordingly.

Occasionally, weather conditions may extend the amount of time it takes to safely transport students from home to school, as well as from school to home. We appreciate your patience and understanding in the event that your child’s bus is delayed, but we also understand the concern that you feel if your child’s bus does not arrive at the expected time.



Bus drivers maintain contact with the EACS Transportation Department, so if a bus is experiencing a delay, the Transportation Department is the best source of information about such a delay. If your child's bus is running late in bringing your child home from school, please call the EACS Transportation Department at 260-446-0100, extension 2024, for the latest information.

Thanks to our Cedarville bus drivers for their daily efforts to keep our students safe!



### **More Food for Thought...**

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to a customer, service; to all, charity; to every child, a good example; to yourself, respect.

-Oren Arnold



### **Family Meals to Go...**

The local Bob Evans Restaurant on DuPont Rd. is working in conjunction with the Leo-Cedarville PTO. If you want to make an easy night of it to save time for more shopping or helping a child study for an end of semester final, think about ordering out through Bob Evans this coming week. Better yet, do you know any shut-ins or people with limited access? What a wonderful surprise it would be to bring a dinner to them. Below is what is being offered.

# **Bob Evans**

Call and order any of the following Family Meals To-Go to support Leo-Cedarville Elementary PTO  
From 11am- 8pm for the Entire Week of December 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

Broasted Chicken, Turkey & Dressing, or Wildfire Salad; plus one side and bread for \$19.99  
Additional Family Size Sides are only \$5 each.

Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales when you present the attached flyer to Bob Evans @ 2935 E. DuPont Road.

Call Ahead or ORDER ONLINE!!  
(260)490-6096 / BOBEVANS.com

**Carryout Only! Program not valid with dine-in or any other programs, offers, or discounts.**



### **Remember Those Deployed...**

The holidays can be lonely times for those serving in our armed forces. Remember them in letters and packages

you can send overseas. That is what Mrs. Bechill's class did in the way of letters to these heroes.



### **Survive the Holidays...**

During the holidays, we often find ourselves somewhere where we have no control over what is served — a party, an event, or family gathering. But that doesn't mean we need to lose control and devour whatever sugary concoction your host has made. Here are a few strategies that can be helpful at holiday social gatherings:

Remind yourself that avoiding weight gain is so much easier than losing it.

Be diligent in getting in a good workout the morning of the holiday meal or go for a walk after.

Don't skip meals on the big party day: Instead, eat early and eat often. Keep the fire of your metabolism burning all day, rather than slowing it down during periods of "mini-starvation." Your metabolism will work faster and more efficiently.

Watch out for sugar pushers: Every family has one of these. They give you a guilt trip about not trying their special pie, persuading you to "Live a little." If you must sample their creation, having a few bites will usually appease them. Just be careful that a few bites don't become two pieces.)

Just relax and eat: Try to make the best choices possible. Don't forget to include foods that nourish your body. Ask for extra vegetables or a second salad. Do your best and relax and have fun – if you happen to "over do it" don't focus on it - you can always get back to your routine in the morning:)



### **No Early Dismissal...**

**THERE WILL BE NO EARLY DISMISSAL ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16. STUDENTS WILL DISMISS AT 3:40.**



### Tacky Holiday Sweater/Shirt ...

Just for the fun of Cedarville Elementary will be having a **Tacky Holiday Sweater/Shirt Day** for adults and students on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Don't go out and buy something that will only become a white elephant gift. If your child would like to participate, sometimes a little imagination may be all it takes. As for me, I have no imagination and will probably go out and buy something.



### Holiday Concerts Spread Joy...

The *bad* news: It was hard to find a seat for both performance (2nd graders and 3rd graders) in the Cedarville Elementary Winter Music Programs on December 1st and 10<sup>th</sup>.



The *good* news: We had a capacity crowd for both performances in the Cedarville Elementary Winter Music Program!

The *GREAT* news: The tremendous support shown by parents, grandparents, family members, staff, and community members in attending events such as this carries over into all aspects of our school and the educational process! As we work together and support one another, we are able to make Cedarville Elementary School the best it can be – and all of our students benefit!



Thanks to all who made the Winter Music Program an event to remember!

May the holiday season bring peace and happiness to you and your family!



### Fort Wayne Children's Zoomobile Visits Grade 3...

Cedarville Grade 3 students took a walk on the WILD side and invited the zoo to their classrooms! Friendly animals combined with expert presenters to make for a program of fun and educational inquiry.





### Flu Season is Here...

For the sake of other children's health, your child should **NOT** attend school if he/she:

- Has a morning temperature of 99 degrees or above (A child kept home from school due to fever must remain home until **fever-free for 24 hours** without the aid of medication such as Tylenol or Advil.)
- Is vomiting and/or has diarrhea (**Children who are vomiting or have diarrhea MUST stay home until they are symptom free for 24 HOURS.**)

If your child becomes ill at school with any of the above indicators, you (or an emergency contact person) will be called to pick up your child. **Sick children, or those who pose other health hazards, will not be sent home on the bus.**

Children who are absent from school due to illness or go home sick from school should **not** attend any school-related functions or events that evening.

With any absence, whether full or partial day, excused or planned, it is the responsibility of the student and/or parent to request make-up work. Any homework that a parent wishes to pick up for the child will be available after school dismisses. *Teachers cannot stop their teaching in the middle of the day to collect homework and itemize assignments.*



### Kindergarten Gives Thanks...



Cedarville Elementary's 200 kindergarten students and their teachers gave thanks together and celebrated in each other's performances the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Here are just a few of the pictures.



### Calling All Super Heroes...

Mark your calendar for the Leo-Cedarville PTO's 2016 carnival! **We are "Calling All Super Heroes" to join us Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 4-8 p.m. at Leo High School!** There will be games, prizes, bounce houses, amazing raffle baskets, food and fun for the whole family!

#### Share Your Super Power!

It takes many volunteers to make our school carnival a success. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact that chairperson! There are many ways you can help:

Volunteer one hour of your time to help at a game the night of carnival, bake something for the bake sale, decorate the evening before carnival. Watch for more information soon!

#### Carnival Sponsorships

Nearly 2000 people visit the PTO Carnival each year. If your family, group or business would like to sponsor an inflatable or game, please contact Jennifer Melchi at [jenmelchi@hotmail.com](mailto:jenmelchi@hotmail.com). All sponsors have a banner placed at their sponsored event and are included in carnival promotional materials.

### Carnival Committee Chairpersons

Becky Beaubien - [becky\\_beaubien@yahoo.com](mailto:becky_beaubien@yahoo.com)

Joy Garoutte - [joygaroutte@gmail.com](mailto:joygaroutte@gmail.com)

Amy Horning - [aebhorning@msn.com](mailto:aebhorning@msn.com)

### Raffle

Chelyn Holub - [chelynholub@gmail.com](mailto:chelynholub@gmail.com)

Joy Martin - [joymartin2000@gmail.com](mailto:joymartin2000@gmail.com)

### Decorations

Julie Drummond - [jmdrummondinc@aol.com](mailto:jmdrummondinc@aol.com)

### Redemption

Amy Winters - [amy@olympiapoolsandspas.com](mailto:amy@olympiapoolsandspas.com)

### Kitchen

Jane Rigdon - [jrigmomof4@gmail.com](mailto:jrigmomof4@gmail.com)

Jennifer Hammond -

[jenniferhammond16@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhammond16@gmail.com)

### Bake Sale

Amanda Chavarria - [amanda.chavarria@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.chavarria@gmail.com)

### Sponsorship

Jennifer Melchi - [jenmelchi@hotmail.com](mailto:jenmelchi@hotmail.com)



## Memorable Moments In School...

### With Mrs. Walker

In the 9 years that I have been teaching, it is safe to say that there have been many memorable moments...a lot of good, some not so great, and many in between. Each one of those moments is special in its own right and carries some sort of meaning that I, for one reason or another, will never forget.



The most memorable moment that stands out among all others, however, is the Blankets for Patients outreach project that I did with my students during the 2009-10 school year. During this school year, students would make fleece blankets for patients in the ICU at Parkview Hospital one Tuesday every month. Not only were my students learning the importance of working together to accomplish a task, they also learned the importance of giving back to their community. On an average Tuesday, we would make anywhere from 15-20 blankets. These blankets would then be delivered to the ICU patients along with a note from the students and a picture of our class.

When I think back on this project, I can't help but smile and get a little teary-eyed...The buzz in the classroom from the students working and chatting is one I'll never forget. The number of parents in attendance each Tuesday was so large that some days we had to relocate to the cafeteria to make room for all of us. It was my first Black Friday shopping experience (because fleece was on sale).

One evening we were featured on the local news (and newspapers the next morning) and our classroom was filled with reporters to watch us work.

There was a day we learned that one of our own classmates was in the hospital and we made a blanket special for her.

We cherished the notes and letters we received from the patients, or family of the patient, thanking us for our project and bringing a 'little bit of sunshine' to the hospital room.

And finally, I will treasure forever the embroidered quilt and scrapbook that were made for me by a grandmother and mother so that I could look back on that project and remember all of the good that my students did that year.

Those moments of making blankets, working as a team, learning to give back to our community...those moments are ones that I carry in my heart and will never forget.



### Mark Your Calendar...

Dec. 15: Tacky Holiday  
Sweater/Shirt Day

Dec. 16: **NO Collaboration Day**  
- regular dismissal

Dec. 17: **Class Holiday Parties**

Dec. 17: Canned Food Drive ends

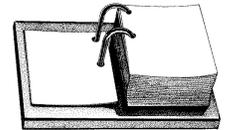
Dec. 18: End of Second Grading Period/Semester:

Dec. 18: Popcorn/Pretzel Friday and SPIRIT DAY

Dec. 21-

Jan. 1: **Holiday Break – NO SCHOOL**

Jan. 4: ½ day district work in the building and ½ day  
teacher work day - **NO SCHOOL FOR  
STUDENTS**



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EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

DREAM IT. DO IT.