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December 2009 Newsletter # 7

December 3, 2009

**How We Behave on the McDowell School Yard**

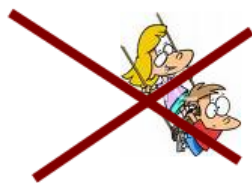
1. Keep hands and feet to self.



2. Sand, sticks, twigs, stones stay on the ground.



3. Swing back and forth in a sitting position only.



4. Play structure slides.  
 Line up - one person at a time -slide down when bottom is clear - slide in sitting positions.



*Christmas joy warms the heart*

1. Bouffe Pontiac

Get into the spirit of giving! We are now accepting non-perishable food items as contribution to the Christmas Food Bank. Drive ends December 11<sup>th</sup>.

2. Books for the Library

Many thanks to the Home and School for donating 3 baskets full of books to the library. The school always benefits from your support of the Scholastic Book Fair.

3. Western Quebec School Board Public Speaking Contest

November 25<sup>th</sup> the W.Q.S.B. Public Speaking Contest took place at Woodland School in Maniwaki. Erin Rousseau represented McDowell School. Congrats to Erin on placing 2<sup>nd</sup> with her attention-grabbing and thought-provoking speech on Vikings.

4. Tennis Ball Galore!

The National Bank has donated close to 1000 tennis balls to the school. Many teachers are taking full advantage and installing the tennis balls on chair legs to reduce noise. Plenty of balls are left over to distribute to classes for outdoor play.

Christmas Craft Sale will be held Saturday

5. Use play structures properly.



6. Puddles are out of bounds.



7. Food and gum stay inside



8. Electronic devices stay in schoolbags.



9. Appropriate language is used at all times.



5. All Paths Lead to Bethlehem – Christmas Pageant

Please join us on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:45 as we re-create the nativity story in verse and song. Thank you to the Christmas Pageant Committee for organizing this event for the McDowell community.

6. Gift Exchange

Last year's experiment for classroom gift exchange was a great success! So this year students who are participating in the gift exchange are asked to bring in a homemade or recycled gift. Please keep in mind that it is the decision of the homeroom teacher if an exchange occurs.

As last year, staff members request that in lieu of gift giving, parents consider donating to a local charity.

7. Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all who contributed to our shoe boxes. This year we filled 38 boxes.

8. Winter Weather

Winter weather has arrived. Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for outdoor play. Boots are a must for all students!

9. French as a Second Language Brochure

Your child has recently received a brochure describing the competencies of the French as a Second Language Program. Thanks goes out to Andrée Fortin, the W.Q.S.B. French language consultant for designing an informative and attractive brochure for parents.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Christmas Pageant      December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009

Return to School      January 6<sup>th</sup> 2010

*Season's Greetings*