

Using Growth Mindset Praise and Feedback

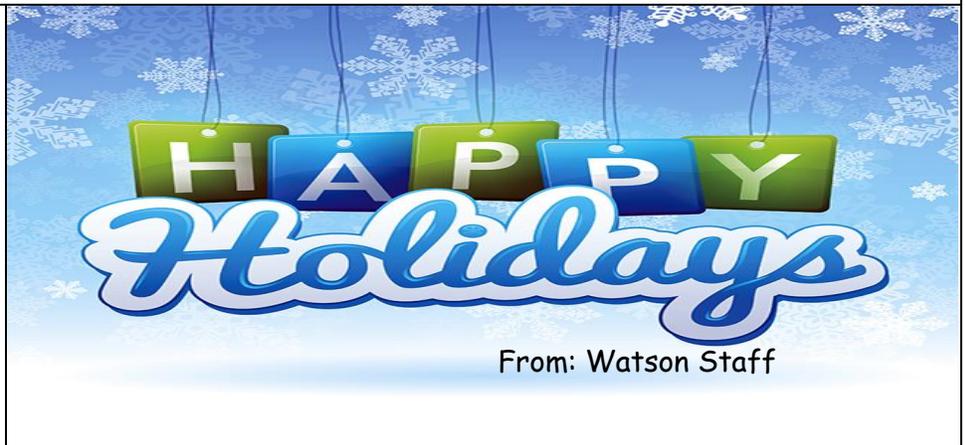
Each month, we are working to include in our building newsletter tips for parents on talking with and supporting their children. In October, we highlighted information on dialoguing with your child in moments of distress and then last month we provided some information/a link focused on teaching mindfulness to kids.

This month, our focus is on using growth mindset praise and feedback. This information comes directly from *Ready-to-Use Resources for Mindsets in the Classroom* (Prufrock Press Inc.)

- **Praise what your child does, not who he or she is.** Instead of saying, “You are so smart/clever/brilliant,” say “I can see you really worked hard/put forth effort/tried hard.” Praise perseverance and resiliency when you see your child struggle or face challenge. Avoid praising grades. Focus on praising work ethic and effort-not achievement
Essentially, if you praise achievement, children often internalize that and when it comes to a time (in the future) where they do not achieve at the same level, they automatically assume they are no longer smart/clever/brilliant. Thus, focusing on work ethic sends the message that when you work hard, often times you are able to achieve more.
- **Adopt the word “yet” into your vocabulary.** If your child proclaims that, he or she does not understand something, cannot dribble a basketball, or cannot play a song on the guitar, remind them that they cannot “yet” but with hard work, they will have success
Again, adopting a growth mindset is all about focusing on the effort needed to achieve new and/or difficult tasks. Children do not innately understand the connection between effort and success. This is something we must all work to help teach them.
- **Avoid comparing your child’s success with that of siblings or friends-achievement is not a competition.** There is enough success for everyone



December 20th, our last day before the holiday break, will be Pajama Day at Watson Elementary. You have just a couple of weeks to find just the right pair of pajamas to wear. Outside shoes need to be worn (no slippers).



Upcoming Events

Below is a listing of specific events scheduled for this coming month!

Thurs/Fri	December 7-8	Holiday Shop
Thursday	December 14	Cleveland Playhouse— Together (Play)
Wednesday	December 20	Pajama Day (See Above) Polar Express with cookies and drink Last Student Day Before Break
Thursday	December 21	No Students (Break Begins)
Wednesday	January 3	Welcome Back Students (School Resumes)

IMPORTANT-New Standard Form Attendance Letters:

Recent changes to Ohio Revised Code have schools monitoring student attendance more closely than ever. We are now required to send letters to ALL families at specific increments regarding absences (both excused and unexcused). The big change here is relative to **excused** absences, as in previous years we were only required to focus on those that were unexcused.

Please do not be alarmed if you receive one these letters. They are standard form letters. We fully understand young children get sick from time-to-time and need to remain at home. The only time you should be alarmed is if your child reaches a point of habitual truancy. That said, prior to such a point you will hear from me, Mrs. Daugherty, directly via a phone call, as well as be sent a letter via certified mail. This is very rare at the elementary level. So, please again do not be alarmed if you receive one of our standard form attendance letters.



A huge THANK YOU to all of our Watson Families for their support during our October Food Drive.

Perry Helping Perry (PHP) our non-profit community based organization that works to provide support (food, clothing etc.) to Perry residents in need.

General Housekeeping...

- If visiting your student for lunch, please remember **NO** outside food is permitted in the cafeteria except a home packed lunch. Also, please call prior to 9:30am so we can plan on you coming
- When sending a note or calling your child off from school, please make sure to include the following information: your name, your child's name, and the **classroom teacher's name**
- If you pick up/drop off your child from a doctors or dentist appointment, please provide a slip signed by the doctor
- Many of you have been receiving form letters regarding attendance. This is a part of our policy at Perry Local. At strategic points of the year, we issue these for students who have accumulated three (3) or more absences. Please make every attempt to obtain a medical excuse whenever your child is absent due to illness.

Vacation Policy

Sometimes it is necessary for a student to be out of school to go on vacation with their family. When this occurs, a vacation form must be filled out in the school office one week prior to the vacation. These forms are available in the office. Remember our vacation policy is limited to **5** school days and students are not permitted to use these days during any Ohio State Testing.

It's Time to Bundle Up...

Winter is quickly approaching! That being said, here are some quick tips to help you prepare:



Make sure your students are dressed appropriately for school & outside recess. Layers are best!

We typically go out for recess unless the temperature (chill factor) falls to 20 degrees or below.

If you suspect a school closing, please make sure to listen to the radio and check your

television for Perry Local in **STARK** County. There is another Perry school district in Northeast Ohio. Additionally, closings will be posted online and a REMIND sent out via the school account.

COUNSELING CONNECTIONS



Happy Holidays and a Joyful New Year. Best Wishes and safe travels this season!

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.
Melissa Watkins, School Counselor
Melissa.Watkins@perrylocal.org

Thank you to everyone who has sent in General Mills Box Tops

It is amazing how something so small can make such a **BIG** difference to our school.



We will be counting November and December together so keep sending these in and be on the lookout in January for our next update!

Keep them coming!

PTO NEWS

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I cannot believe December is here! UNITE is excited to host another Watson Holiday Shop for our kids this year. The dates are December 7-8 during school hours. Please remember this is an event for children to shop for their families with volunteers who help run the shop. It is not intended for parents to come in and shop **WITH their kids. Of course, if you are working the shop you are more than welcome to help your child.

**Please consider volunteering to help with COSI on wheels on Friday, January 5, 2018. The information will be sent out on the *Remind App* in mid-December.

**We look forward to seeing you at our next Watson Night Out at East Of Chicago Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 11:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.

**We will not have a Watson Night out or a UNITE meeting during December. Our next UNITE meeting will be Thursday, January 25 at 1:00 P.M.

PLEASE, remember to sign up for *Remind* to stay informed of UNITE events. Go to the app and add us. We are "dh64h" or you can text @dh64h to the number 81010. When we are looking for less than 20 volunteers, the **ONLY way we are doing it is by using the app messages--no more sending forms home.

**ANY paperwork that comes home in your child's folder from UNITE will also be found on the Watson facebook page. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at watsonunite@yahoo.com

Have a safe and happy holiday season,
Jennifer Jones
Watson UNITE, President

