

January 1, 2012

Dear Dirksen Families,

Welcome to 2012! At Dirksen School we take this opportunity to reflect on all that we are grateful for and anxiously await all that the New Year holds for us. We are grateful for children that come to us eager to learn and families that are supportive of our efforts. We know that a strong home - school connection is vital to your child's achievement. We thank you for all your efforts and look forward to your continued involvement at Dirksen School.

Students will have outdoor recess if the temperature, with wind-chill, is at zero or above. Please have your students wear boots, hats, gloves and snow pants. It is great fun to play in the snow, but students must be dressed so that they stay warm and dry.

As students returned from winter break we reviewed the **3 Bs** – Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe. Our students are doing a terrific job of demonstrating these attributes each day at school. You might find it helpful to use the **3 Bs** at home as well.

MAP results will be shared with you during Parent Teacher Conferences on January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Our school-wide data looks awesome with significant growth across grades. We are excited to be able to share this with you. Please check out our data board near room 102 when you come in for conferences. ACCESS testing for students with a non-English speaking background will take place January and into February. **It is very important that your child is in school each and every day.** These tests help provide us with important information about your child's English language acquisition and how we can best serve their needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Piech, Ed.D.

