



Principally Speaking:

December 2019

SEASON'S GREETINGS CHISHOLM CHARGERS!

As this December newsletter reaches you we are back to school from the weeklong Thanksgiving break and headed towards the close of the first semester, Christmas break, and the end of 2019. As it always seems during this time of year, time flies by, and this year is no different. I would like to thank members of our PTO, staff, and parent volunteers for their efforts helping put together our recent Turkey Bingo on November 22nd. We had a great turnout for this event with numerous bingo games, a successful pie auction, and we collected 25 boxes of canned goods which were donated to the local food bank.

The State Department of Education recently released the school report cards for the 18-19 school year. Each school's grade is comprised of 4 factors: Student Academic Achievement (3rd, 4th, and 5th grade OSTP scores for Math, ELA, and Science), Student Academic Growth (4th and 5th grade Math and ELA scores compared to the previous school year results), English Language Learner scores on the WIDA test, and School Attendance. Chisholm's school grade for the 18-19 school year was a B, which dropped from the previous year's score of A. Several factors affect this lower score. Factors include the cut scores being raised, tests being administered on computers, a new math curriculum, and higher depth of knowledge questions on the exam. As a district, three elementary schools and one middle school received a letter grade of A. There were seventeen schools that received a letter grade of B and five schools received a grade of C. School report cards offer a snapshot for the year, and we will examine all of our data and practices to find areas of growth moving forward. Additional information on school report cards can be found on the State Department of Education website.

The Edmond School Board recently voted on and released the 2020-2021 school calendar. Our district has been looking to balance the number of school days between first and second semesters in recent school years. It's important to highlight that our first day of school next year will be August 13th, which is several days earlier than in the past. The last day of school next year will be May 19th. We wanted you to be aware of this change as you plan and prepare for vacations or events.

All the instructional days, breaks, holidays, can be found by clicking here:

<https://edmondschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020-2021-Calendar.pdf>.

Looking forward to the next couple of weeks, winter parties will take place on December 18th for Pre K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classrooms and December 19th for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms. Parties on both days will begin at 2:25pm, and homeroom parents will be able to enter and setup at 2:05pm. Our last day of instruction before break will be December 20th. Classes for second semester will resume on January 7th, 2020.

I hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing holiday season and a happy new year!

Mr. Higdon

