



SECC January Newsletter

Welcome 2021!! We hope everyone enjoyed the vacation and had a fun and safe New Year!

This month's themes are **winter, snow, and ice**. We will be learning about what a snowflake is, how snow melts, how ice is formed, and signs of winter. We will also learn about several arctic animals who enjoy a cold climate. It is a great month to explore science with melting snow and ice!

We will discuss the final book in our social thinking series, "**Whole Body Listening**". Listening involves more than hearing with our ears and this multi-layered skill is best taught through whole body listening. This tool helps to break down the abstract concept of listening by explaining how each body part other than the ears is involved: the brain thinking about what is being said; the eyes looking at or toward the speaker; the mouth quiet; the body facing toward the speaker; and the hands and feet quiet and kept to oneself. The heart is involved as well, to encourage empathy and perspective taking. Please see page 2 of the newsletter for a visual support to use at home.

Preschool Information Night is temporarily on hold.

Report cards will be sent home at the end of the month. Report cards are designed to update you on your child's development and progress. Parent conferences will be held in March to discuss further progress. If you have any immediate concerns please contact your child's teacher.

SECC is holding a **Food Drive** to support the TEO in Townsend. We are so excited to help our local community while also teaching our students about the importance of helping others. We will be collecting between January 11 and January 29. Donations can be sent in to school with your child or may be left in the preschool lobby. Please see the flyer on page 3 for additional information!

Dates to mark on your calendar:

Friday, January 1: No school

Monday, January 4: Back to school

Monday, January 18: No School

Whole Body Listening!

Larry wants to remind you to listen with your entire body



Eyes = Looking toward the speaker



Ears = Both ears ready to hear



Mouth = Quiet - waiting for your turn to talk



Hands = Quiet and kept to yourself



Feet = Quiet and still



Body = Facing toward the speaker



Brain = Thinking about what is being said



Heart = Consider the speaker and others listening



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SECC and LEAP are holding a winter food drive to benefit the Townsend Ecumenical Outreach (TEO). Food pantries tend to have limited supply after the holidays so we would like to help replenish it. Please contribute the following non-perishable items to your classroom if you would like to participate:

- Mrs. H:** shelf stable dairy products (boxed or canned milk, pudding), soup, diapers
- Mrs. Howes:** condiments, sauces, cereal, baby food
- Miss Lauren:** pasta items (noodles, spaghetti, rotini), canned fruits
- Mrs. Smith:** peanut butter, toiletries (tissues, paper towels, toothpaste, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toilet paper)
- Mrs. Wendling:** canned vegetables, oatmeal
- OT/PT/Speech-only students:** rice, jellies and jams, canned chicken/tuna

Be sure to check the expiration dates! Any class that contributes a minimum **total of 5 items** will get to celebrate with a classroom dance party!

Thank you for your support!
Sincerely,
SECC/LEAP Teachers

Collecting between January 11 - January 29