



# Watkins Glen Elementary News

# JANUARY 2009

## Principal's Talk

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

**Welcome back from the holiday break!** Testing time has now begun for grades 3 and 4. Starting the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>, grades 3-5 will be taking the NYS ELA test. As a parent, I urge you to encourage good work habits, present a positive attitude toward tests and be sure your child is physically prepared for the tests. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast will make for a great start to the day. If you would like information on similar questions that will be used on the upcoming tests, you can familiarize yourself with these by going to the state website below or requesting the school to send you a copy of an old test.

[www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/testsample.html](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/testsample.html)



If you are using the district calendar to determine school days in session, please make a note that the March 27<sup>th</sup> Conference Day has been changed to March 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be no school on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and there will be school scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, be aware of the fact that we used all of our built-in snow days prior to the end of December, so I would expect future calendar changes as future snow days are called. It is expected that school days may have to be added back into one of the upcoming vacation weeks in order to get in the required number of school days for our students. I will send home communication on these changes as soon as I am notified. We certainly apologize in advance for the changes, as we are all aware that many families plan vacation time around the current school calendar.

With the current state of the economy affecting many of our families, more individuals may be impacted due to reduced work hours or lack of employment. I would like to remind families that you may now be entitled to free or reduced lunches at the school for your children. You can apply at any time during the year. Applications can be obtained at any school building or on our district web site at [www.watkinsglenschools.org](http://www.watkinsglenschools.org)

Respectfully yours,  
Rod Weeden, Principal



## PTA News

PTA held another very successful Breakfast with Santa Claus in December. Special thanks go out to all the music students and teacher for providing holiday music. We would like to thank Santa for coming and to give a big thank you to all the PTA holiday elves for helping out and providing table service during the event. The holiday gift store had many quality gifts and crafts for the students to make or purchase. Curly's Restaurant provided us with the wonderful food, once again.

Our PTA fundraiser was another huge success and we would like to thank all the parents and community members for helping to make it such a great success. We will report that actual amount earned in the February newsletter after all expenses are paid. Thank you to all the PTA helpers for staying late to help organize and pass out fundraiser items to the appropriate families.

As a reminder, our PTA sponsors a weekly school store. It is open on most Friday mornings and staffed by students at the school. It is located in front of Cafeteria 1.

PTA will be providing muffins in the morning to every student taking the New York State ELA test in grades 3-8 over the next few weeks.

**Next PTA Meeting** – Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 6PM @ Elementary School Conference Room 1

### Important Dates:

- Jan 5<sup>th</sup> – School Board Mtg 6:30
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – NYS ELA Test Grades 3-5
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – Operation Safe Child Pictures Taken
- Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – M.L.King Jr Day – No School
- Jan 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> – NYS ELA Testing grades 6-8
- Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – End of ES marking period
- Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – SDM Meeting 3:45 PM @ ES
- Jan 26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA Field Test
- Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – Operation Safe Child Pictures Taken
- Jan 30<sup>th</sup> -Report cards go home
- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – Conference day – No School

