Greetings,

The Winter Program is anticipated by staff, students and families, alike as it is always a highlight of the school year. This year’s program was a delight. It was such a pleasure to see all the Boyd Family in attendance at the Winter Program. All three sessions of the Winter Program were performed for a full house. That means we had nearly 1,000 people in attendance. We are so glad you were there!

Thank you to Mrs. Wixon, Ms. Rouch, Mrs. Stoltenberg and Mrs. Fuller for preparing our students so well. Thank you also to the Winter Program Committee for creating a wintry atmosphere inside even though it was quite the opposite outdoors.

Over winter break we encourage you to relax and enjoy the special family time. With that being said, many students find that the break is long enough to spend time with family and keep their minds active.

Students in all grades K-6 may access Big Brainz a mathematical application. See the attachment for more information regarding Big Brainz. Students in grades 3-6 may utilize Study Island. To access Study Island please follow the instructions below:

Visit www.studyisland.com
Click “login” in blue
Enter username and password.
   Username is FirstnameLastname@Boyd (for example ScottHilger@Boyd)
   Students should know their password
   Select teacher assignment, or choose math/reading & choose assignment or topic

You can always take time to enjoy a good book, as well.

We wish you and your family much health and happiness in 2016.

Happy New Year!

Mrs. Larsen
Mr. Hilger
**Box Tops/Labels:** The PTA collects Box Tops and Labels for Education as an additional source of income to support its programs. There is a collection box near the front desk. Box Tops and Labels can also be given to your child’s teacher. (Please check the expiration date on these clippings before turning them in.)

**Boyd’s Kindergarten Roundup for the 2016-17 school year will be held Friday, January 22, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.**

If you have a child or know of a child that will turn age 5 on or before July 31, 2016 please call the office at 402-572-8928.

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**Classroom spotlight: Mrs. Bryan, Room 15, 1st Grade**

First Grade students from Room 15 hope you are having a wonderful holiday season! We can’t believe how fast the year has gone already! In Reading, we have enjoyed so many great stories and books. Examples of good writing not only makes reading interesting, it also helps us to improve as writers ourselves. We continue to practice our sight words at home and at school, and love to read with our families every chance we get! (Hint, hint. This is a great way to spend some time during Winter Break).

We have been working hard in Math, as well, and have mastered multiple strategies for tackling addition and subtraction problems with numbers up to twenty, such as: counting on, counting back, ten frames, related math facts, doubles facts, etc. Add to this our studies in Science, Social Studies, Writer’s Workshop, and Specials (Music, Art, Library, Guidance, and P.E.), and you’ll have an idea of how busy and rewarding it is to be in First Grade.

First Grade students have also noticed blue hands showing up on the walls in our hallway. What could this mean? We love a good mystery, and have been making lots of predictions. We can’t wait to see what the New Year brings....
SCHOOL CHOICE FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

January, 2016, starts the annual school selection application process for the 2016-17 school year. Students enrolled in a transition grade (last grade at the current school), will receive a selection application to participate in the school choice process for the next school year. The School Selection process is guided by the Student Assignment Plan for the Omaha Public Schools.

School Selection Guarantee under the Student Assignment Plan:
Elementary and Middle school students are guaranteed placement in their neighborhood (Home Attendance Area) school assigned by residential address.

School Choice under the Student Assignment Plan:
Families may apply for their child to attend any OPS school. Approval of a request depends on the availability of space at the student's grade level in the requested school and these priorities:

With limited exceptions, OPS students may continue to attend their current school. Possible exceptions include children attending a school with extremely high enrollment who move out of the attendance area (such as Castelar or Gomez), or Kindergarten-eligible children who currently attend Pre-Kindergarten and Head Start programs that are not located in the neighborhood school. They may apply through selection for placement in the non-neighborhood school however, capacity may limit their selection.

After neighborhood students, the priority for approval is for a student whose sibling now attends and will continue to attend the requested school. Approval is based on available space and is not guaranteed.

The next priority will be given to a student who resides within the Omaha Public Schools and who will enhance the socioeconomic diversity of the requested school.
A student who will not enhance the socioeconomic diversity of a school may be approved if space is available.

Transportation:
Transportation provisions included in the current Student Assignment Plan for 2016-17 are designed to support the goal of increasing socioeconomic diversity in every school and to assist families whose children attend the neighborhood elementary or middle school but live more than 1.5 miles from the school.

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATIONS will be distributed at school in January, 2016 to all incoming KG children now enrolled in Head Start or PK and to children in the last grade level of their school (GR 4, 5, or 6). Generic School Choice Applications will also be available at every school and at the Student Placement office at TAC during the month of January.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT LETTERS will be mailed in December to families of students currently in the last grade level of their school. The purpose of the letter is to provide information about middle schools and their respective Open House dates. Families are encouraged to request theme-based middle schools through the School Choice process in order for their children to benefit from the innovative curricula and diverse environments of these schools.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UPS will be held in January, 2016. Please attend Round-Up at your neighborhood school based on your residential address. School Selection Applications will be available at Round-Up and throughout the month of January for families who wish to request a non-neighborhood school (s). Round-Up dates will be posted on the OPS Web page or check the date with your neighborhood school.

If you have questions about the Omaha Public Schools Student Assignment Plan or the School Choice process, please contact the Student Placement Office at (402) 557-2710.