



# ASPEN Update

Aspen Academy Weekly Newsletter

December 1, 2023



12/07.....Winter Band Concert - 7pm  
12/11.....Board Meeting - 6 pm  
12/21-1/1..Winter Break  
1/2.....Scholars return to school

## Carline Reminders



During arrival and dismissal we have noticed numerous cars parking in the handicap parking spaces without displaying a disability parking certificate or license plate. Vehicles have also been blocking the striped areas next to those spots.

We would like our Aspen families to use integrity and only park in these locations if you have proper identification and not if you need to quickly drop a scholar off/pick them up. If this issue continues we will take additional steps to ensure those spots are available for those that need the space.

Thank you for modeling integrity for our scholars and being kind to those that need those spaces.

## Staff Gifts

It is the gift giving time of year! The PTO would like to give a little something to each and every staff member as a small token of our gratitude for taking such good care of our students. We know that classroom teachers, specialists and support staff feel the love of the season, but sometimes those behind the scenes or that don't have their own classroom need a little something as well. We are hoping to give \$10 Target, Starbucks or Amazon gift cards to each of our 106(!) employees/contracted staff.



As an added gift, students can make a snowflake or bookmark for staff. If your last name begins with A-M, please make snowflakes. If your last name begins with N-Z, please make bookmarks. On each, write the person's name who it is for. Don't forget custodians, paras, lunch room staff, special education staff, anyone your scholar sees during the week! We will also take ones with no names and give them a good home. There will be a box right outside the office to leave them in. All gift cards/cash and snowflakes/bookmarks will be due into the office by Wednesday, December 13th. Feel free to have your student drop them off on their way into school at the office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F49A9AA23A31-46339079-winter>

If you have any questions, please email [pto@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:pto@aspenacademymn.org).

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## Giving Tree



As part of our enduring tradition, Aspen Academy is pleased to announce the commencement of our annual Giving Tree initiative. Designed to provide support for families and students during the winter season, this cherished tradition ensures that those facing challenges receive assistance. Families are invited to complete a formal request form, specifying their

needs for items such as clothing and winter gear. Examples of requested items include but are not limited to hats, gloves, jackets, snow pants, uniforms, socks, underwear, and more. For your convenience, the form to request items is accessible through the following link. If you have any used uniforms or winter gear that you would like to donate separately please contact Mr. Tuma. His contact information will be listed below.

**Giving Tree Form: Please submit requests by Dec 11, 2023.**

Pick-up: Mr. Tuma will contact you if we receive an item requested.

**Pick up items December 18-20** (no later than 4pm on the 20th)

All names and contact information will be kept confidential with Mr. Tuma, Aspen's School Counselor.

Aspen will send out an email on December 11th with all requested items on a school-wide Signup Genius where community members and Aspen families can sign up to fulfill the request.

**Please drop off the items at the front desk unwrapped by December 15th at 4pm.**

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Tuma,  
[nathan.tuma@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:nathan.tuma@aspenacademymn.org).

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## Inclement Weather

In the event there is a snow day, late start or early release:

- A robo call and email will be sent to families

- A Facebook post will be made
- Reported on our School website
- Reported to WCCO, Fox 9 News, Kare 11 News

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## Lunchroom Volunteering



Aspen Academy is in need of Lunchroom Volunteers!

Please take a few minutes and sign up for a time slot! Click here to signup: [Signup Link](#)

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## Illness Reporting

If your child is absent due to illness, we ask that you share the symptoms or diagnosis such as influenza, strep throat, COVID, RSV, etc on the absence line. Aspen Academy does not supply facial masks, if you would like your student to wear a mask, families must supply their own.

This information helps us monitor and respond to illness trends we are seeing in our student population.

The information also helps us report trends to the Minnesota Department of Health who is monitoring statewide trends.

If you have any questions contact the health office at [health.office@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:health.office@aspenacademymn.org)



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