

# Western Reserve Hi-Lights

## December 2011

### Santa's Secret Shop

Santa's Secret Shop begins on December 5. Students will have the opportunity to buy small gifts for their relatives. Everyone who has visited Santa's Shop in the past has been in awe of the variety of items available for students to choose from. For students, this is a wonderful opportunity to put their own wishes aside and shop for someone else. Santa's Shop also presents multiple decisions as they choose from many, many gifts. Students have to budget their money and make choices of what to buy. After students make their selections, older students help them wrap their presents so that the recipients will be surprised. Both the older students and younger students benefit from the collaboration. *Santa's Secret Shop* is the result of several months of hard work and planning by the P.T.O. Like Santa's elves, the P.T.O. moms and dads began their work last year. They spend hours finding just the right items for Santa's Shop. Their gift of time provides a wonderful experience for our students. Thank you, P.T.O. Let the shopping begin.

### Stocking Up For Christmas



Student Council is sponsoring the annual **Stocking Up For Christmas**. Students and families are encouraged to donate items that will be donated to Caring Community. This local food bank serves clients from the Western Reserve School District. Items such as soap, tissues, 4-packs of toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, dental floss, dish soap, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies will be collected. The campaign begins on December 5 and lasts through December 16th. The winning classroom at each grade level will receive an ice cream party for the most items brought in during this campaign. Thank you to all for helping those in need.

### Reading and Math Tutoring



Western Reserve Elementary is offering free tutoring to all first through sixth grade students. Fifty-five students are taking advantage of this opportunity. Students in grades one and two will get extra instruction in phonics, reading comprehension and math. Students in grades three through six will get additional instruction in reading comprehension, writing responses to questions and math problem solving. Students also receive extra support during the school day from Mrs. Cathy Dahl who is working with fifth and sixth grade students in their classrooms and occasionally as a pull-out if students need individualized help.

## **P.T.O. Fall Fundraiser Winners**

Eight Western Reserve students recently enjoyed a limousine ride to Pizza Hut and a buffet lunch of pizza, pizza and desserts. The lucky students were the top sellers of the fall fundraiser and won the trip. Mrs. Jump and Mrs. Mahoney also accompanied the students who enjoyed the limousine as much as the pizza— almost! Several students participated in the Money Machine on November 18. They stepped into an enclosed Money Machine and got to keep all of the money they could catch. P.T.O. helped them out by giving each of these students \$25.

## **Tales of a Caring Community**

Western Reserve Elementary is truly blessed to be a part of a very caring and giving community. This is the time of year when students start thinking about Santa Claus and Christmas. It's a more difficult season for many parents who are struggling to provide for their families. Several organizations and many, many individuals have stepped forward to make the Christmas season more joyous for our families. The school is grateful for donations of toys, money and clothes to our families to ensure a Christmas for so many of our students. We are all truly touched and thankful for the generosity of the community.

## **Ohio Achievement Tests**

Ohio Achievement Tests for grades 3-6 will be administered the week of April 23– 30 with most make-ups the following week. This year all students in grades 3-6 will take reading and math achievement tests. Fifth grade will also have a science test. These are state mandated tests so there will not be any excused absences for vacations during testing week.



**Merry**

**Christmas and**

**Happy New Year from the Staff of Western**

**Reserve Elementary.**

