



JFK Weekly Newsletter

Friday, January 5, 2024 Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

Happy New Year!

Monday marked the beginning of 2024. For many of us, we celebrate this as the New Year. This is based on the Gregorian calendar, which is the common calendar that we use. January 1st began being adopted as the New Year by Europe and their colonies during the mid-1500s. England, Wales, Ireland, and Britain's American colonies adopted 1 January as New Year's Day in 1752. In North American indigenous cultures, the New Year is at the end of January or the first part of February, based on the constellations and moon phases.

Many Americans celebrate the New Year with gatherings on the 31st, fireworks, and staying up late to ring in the New Year together at midnight. In Scotland, they begin the celebration on December 30th and end on January 1st. People deep clean their homes, visit friends and families, and sing "Auld Lang Syne ", which is sung all over the world and is originally Scottish. In the Philippines, people wear clothing with round patterns, such as polka dots, and eat round foods to promote prosperity and good luck. In Brazil, people wear white, a long-standing African tradition, and jump over seven waves in the ocean at midnight while making New Year's resolutions or hopes. In Mexico, and some other Latin American Countries, people walk around with an empty suitcase to help ring in a new year filled with travel and new experiences. In Cuba, people gather all the bad spirits from the outgoing year and toss them out the front door by tossing a bucket full of dirty water out while they countdown to midnight. In Greece, families hang pomegranates from their door before the holiday and on New years the first person enters the house right foot first to bring good fortune to the family, and the second person to enter the house smashes a pomegranate against the door to see how much good luck - the juicier the seeds the more luck. In many German-speaking countries people melt tin (it was originally lead), put it in cold water, and make a prediction for the New Year based on the shape the tin makes in the cold water. Russians say thank you to the outgoing year by staying silent for 12 seconds before midnight. In Spain and Italy, they wear red, and in Ireland, they set an extra place at the table for loved ones lost during the year.

Each family has their own traditions and beliefs that make up their individual family culture. Talking to your children about your own family culture, and how that is the same and/or different from other cultures is a great way to help your children create a healthy sense of identity and an appreciation for other's beliefs and cultures.

Spring Concerts

We are excited to announce that we will have our spring concerts again this school year. We started this new tradition last year and it was incredibly successful.

The Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade concert will be on April 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm in the WSD Performing Arts Center.

The Newcomer classroom, Multi-Age classroom, 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade concert will be May 8, 2024, at 2:00 pm in the WSD Performing Arts Center.

Mark your calendars!

Calendar

[Friday, January 5, 2024](#)

Veggie Van Go

[January 18, 2024](#)

12:15 Early Release for all students

No Pre-K

[Friday, January 19, 2024](#)

Veggie Van Go

[Friday, February 2, 2024](#)

Veggie Van Go

[Friday, February 16, 2024](#)

Veggie Van Go

[February 22 & 23, 2024](#)

11:00 Early Release for all students

MHS Parent Teacher Conferences

[February 26 - March 5, 2024](#)

No School



JFK Elementary

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Sara Raabe

