



# SHARK BITES



December 2019

## Principal's Corner – Anne Park

Dear Shark Families,

This month marks my 12<sup>th</sup> month as principal at Downes Elementary. What a year it has been!! We have had celebrations and sadness but throughout it all I have felt one emotion and that is gratitude for the amazing families we have here at Downes. No matter what the need, parents at Downes have stepped up. I have seen parents volunteer in the office just because they knew Marilyn was going to be alone on a busy day. I have seen parents sit in the dunk tank so the students could feel the joy of watching them drop into the water. Parents have been here early in the morning putting prizes in

mailboxes, picking up forms, dropping off checks and/or running parent breakfasts. Families have been volunteering at all of our events from Walk to School day to Fun in the Sun. I am truly thankful for everything that each and every one of our families brings to Downes and I continue to look forward to working with all of you. I wish you all a safe and happy winter break and hope that 2020 brings you great joy!

Anne Park  
Principal

## Month at a Glance

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: Book Fair
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Shue-Medill Presentation at 6p
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: PTA Meeting at 6:30p
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Math & Literacy Night
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Winter Sing-a-long at Newark HS  
from 6:30p to 8p
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Shark of the Month Lunches
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Ugly Sweater Day
- 20<sup>th</sup>: SPS Raffle & Silly String Event
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>: Winter Break

## Mitten Tree Reminder

Thanks to everyone who has already participated. There are many mittens left on the tree so if you are interested, please pick one up. As a reminder, please sign out all mittens on the spreadsheet next to the tree. Purchase a new item described on the mitten. All items (unwrapped) and mittens are due to the Nurse's Office by Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to shop for a Mitten Tree participant but would still like to help, you may donate a Target or Walmart gift card. These cards will be used to shop for items that were not selected from the tree.

Please join us for a fun night of wrapping the items on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, in the Downes Cafeteria. To maintain privacy, we respectfully ask that no current Downes student assist with wrapping.



Contact [Lynda Fisher](mailto:LyndaFisher4@gmail.com) at [LyndaFisher4@gmail.com](mailto:LyndaFisher4@gmail.com) with questions about the Mitten Tree.

<b>Contact Information</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DownesPTA/">https://www.facebook.com/DownesPTA/</a>   <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DownesES/">https://www.facebook.com/DownesES/</a>   <a href="http://www.DownesES.org">http://www.DownesES.org</a>
Downes Elementary School Main Number .....	454-2133
Principals Office.....	ext. 12542
School Nurse.....	ext. 12543
Guidance Counselor.....	ext. 42836
Cafeteria.....	ext. 42802
District Transportation Office.....	454-2281
Christina District Office.....	552-2600
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ChristinaK12/">https://www.facebook.com/ChristinaK12/</a>

## PBS DONATIONS Needed

Donations are being accepted for the PBS program. Items will be given to classroom teachers to use as PBS prizes/incentives in their classroom. Please make sure items donated are not broken or missing pieces.

## Open Committee Chairs

- Reflections
- Mom's Breakfast
- Helping Hands
- Dad's Breakfast
- Advocacy
- Grant Writers

You must be a member, or willing to become a member, of the PTA to apply. If you need more information, are interested in a position, or know someone who might be a good fit, please contact Lori Nesnow ([lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com)).

## Report Cards

As a reminder, report cards are now accessible on Home Access Center (HAC). If you have misplaced your log-on information, please contact your child's teacher and they can provide the information to you. The link is available on the Downes Elementary School website ([www.downeses.org](http://www.downeses.org)) under the "Parents" tab at the top.

## Electronic Versions of Shark Bites are available with clickable links.

Go to: <http://www.downeses.org> → About Us → [Shark Bites Newsletter](#)



Save the date for our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Family Healthy Heart Night on Friday, February 21, 2020 from 6:30-8:30. We hope you will come out and enjoy some quality family time with an evening of fun, active activities. More information to come soon!

## PTA Officers

President	Bronwyn Millman	<a href="mailto:bmillman@gmail.com">bmillman@gmail.com</a>
Co-Vice Presidents	Dani Whitaker Parker Slaton	<a href="mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com">daniwhitaker14@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:parker.slaton@gmail.com">parker.slaton@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Rebecca Kalmbach	<a href="mailto:rebecca716@hotmail.com">rebecca716@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ann Balback	<a href="mailto:ann.j.balback@gmail.com">ann.j.balback@gmail.com</a>

## PTA Committees

Co-Membership	Lori Nesnow	<a href="mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com">lnesnow@gmail.com</a>
Book Fair	Andrey Mihalow	<a href="mailto:andreyamihaloew@gmail.com">andreyamihaloew@gmail.com</a>
Shark Bites	Allison Gobiel	<a href="mailto:starr.allison@gmail.com">starr.allison@gmail.com</a>
Homeroom Parent Coordinator	Dani Whitaker	<a href="mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com">daniwhitaker14@gmail.com</a>
Reflections	Amber Money	<a href="mailto:amb828@gmail.com">amb828@gmail.com</a>
Vegetable Garden Chairperson	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Vegetable Garden Assistant	Heidi Bloch	<a href="mailto:Heidi.Bloch@chistina.k12.de.us">Heidi.Bloch@chistina.k12.de.us</a>
Display Case	Christy Fitzpatrick	<a href="mailto:christyeduncan@gmail.com">christyeduncan@gmail.com</a>
Website	Lori Nesnow	<a href="mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com">lnesnow@gmail.com</a>
Helping Hands	Dani Whitaker	<a href="mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com">daniwhitaker14@gmail.com</a>
School Photo Coordinator	Marilyn Porras	<a href="mailto:Marilyn.Porras@chistina.k12.de.us">Marilyn.Porras@chistina.k12.de.us</a>
Mitten Tree	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Box Tops	Parker Slaton	<a href="mailto:parker.slaton@gmail.com">parker.slaton@gmail.com</a>
Advocacy	Lynda Fisher	<a href="mailto:lyndafisher4@gmail.com">lyndafisher4@gmail.com</a>
Mom's Breakfast	Kevin Bohrer	<a href="mailto:downesboxtops@gmail.com">downesboxtops@gmail.com</a>
Dad's Breakfast	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Grant Writer	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Shark Pride Stride	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
	Jason Snyder	<a href="mailto:itsnyder9@yahoo.com">itsnyder9@yahoo.com</a>



## The January Shark Bites Submission Deadline is December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please send submissions to: [Dani Whitaker](mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com) at [daniwhitaker14@gmail.com](mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com)

## Family Healthy Heart Night

## Meet Your 2019-2020 PTA Members

Welcome back to another school year at Downes. While getting to know your new teachers and your student's new friends, we'd like you to take a moment to get to know who you can reach out to for additional support and resources. We look forward to seeing you at the many events hosted and supported by the PTA this year, and hope you and your students have a happy and productive school year at Downes!

**PTA President:** Bronwyn Millman ([bmillman@gmail.com](mailto:bmillman@gmail.com))



Hello Downes Families! My name is Bronwyn Millman and I am the current President of the PTA here at Downes. I have 2 children, Lucas (3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Downes) and Wesley (8<sup>th</sup> grade at Shue). I was PTA President for 2 years when my oldest was a student at Downes and I'm serving again now that my youngest is here at the school. I love the community here at Downes and am so glad that my children have had such a great experience. I have loved meeting other families at the school and appreciate the friendships that my children and I have formed. I believe that PTA has a place for everyone to participate and share their interests and talents. Please contact me at [bmillman@gmail.com](mailto:bmillman@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns that you might have about Downes or the PTA. I look forward to hearing from you.

**PTA Vice President Co-Chair:** Dani Whitaker ([daniwhitaker14@gmail.com](mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com))



Hello fellow Sharks! I am pleased to be serving as the Co-Vice Present of the PTA and am excited to continue to be a part of what makes this school so great! My husband Rejean and I reside in Middletown, DE with our 2 daughters, Marley and Rory. Marley is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, at Downes, in the Chinese Immersion program and absolutely loves it. Our little Rory attends KinderCare Learning Center on Paxson Lane and has a little ways to go before entering kindergarten. I am the editor of Downes' school newsletter (Shark Bites), as well as one of the administrators for the school website. Outside of these duties, I work as an administrative assistant at the University of Delaware and am very active in a number of committees. In my down time I love to read, researching my family genealogy, photography and spending time with family and friends. I look forward to another great school year and connecting with you all.

**PTA Vice President Co-Chair:** Parker Slaton ([parker.slaton@gmail.com](mailto:parker.slaton@gmail.com))



I have two daughters at Downes, Ibbie in kindergarten and Cole in second grade, as well as two preschool-aged sons at Newark Methodist Preschool. I'm excited to serve as Co-Vice President of the PTA this year and grateful for the opportunity to help with our school. I enjoy photography and take pictures at many school events. The images can be seen on the posters in the front hall and in Shark Bites. I'm looking forward to the school year and helping other parents and guardians get involved with our community!

PTA Treasurer: Ann Balback ([ann.i.balback@gmail.com](mailto:ann.i.balback@gmail.com))



My daughter, Alana, is a second grader in the Chinese Immersion program. We love being a part of the Downes Family!

I have worked in the Financial Services industry for over 20 years and currently work as a Sr. Trust Officer - Team Lead at RBC Trust Company.

This is my third year acting as the PTA Treasurer. In this role, I have had a first-hand view of how the PTA (through your generous donations and volunteering your time) helps to improve the school through supporting various student programs, family events, and classroom/teacher support. We couldn't do it without YOU!!

Fun facts about me, in my free time I love laughing with friends and family, traveling, running half marathons, and being outdoors – especially at the beach!

PTA Secretary: Rebecca Kalmbach ([rebecca716@hotmail.com](mailto:rebecca716@hotmail.com))



I happy to be serving on the board this year PTA secretary. I have two children in the Christina School District. My daughter Maeve is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader in the Chinese Immersion Program and Thurman is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in the Chinese program at Shue Medill. I joined the PTA to learn more about what my children were doing at school, and to connect with other Downes families. I work full time as a middle school French teacher in the Appoquinimink School District. I love listening to podcasts on my commute and I have been known to take an extra loop around the neighborhood to hear the ending of a great story. I am so proud to be a part of the Downes community and I look forward to meeting more of you this year!

PTA Membership Co-Chair: Lori Nesnow ([lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com))



I am happy to be continuing as co membership chair this year at Downes. My son, Owen, is in second grade and is in the Chinese immersion program and my younger son, Evan, will be in kindergarten next year. We are happy to have our child attend such a great school and be part of such an amazing community of people. I work at the University of Delaware full time and have started to take classes again to expand my knowledge on contemporary issues. I love to explore national parks and have rafted through the Grand Canyon. We enjoy going to the beach whenever we can. I am looking forward to another amazing year at Downes.

## A Reading Note from Ms. Brewer

### Tips on being a great reading partner!



1. Be patient and encouraging.
2. Ask questions about the story while you're reading to gauge comprehension.
3. For younger readers, read the same stories over and over. Try reading the same stories in different ways, with different voices to make it fun and interesting.
4. Gently correct mistakes and re-read the entire sentence.
5. ALWAYS give positive feedback and make reading a part of your daily routine!

## Meet the new Staff



Hello Downes Families!

My name is Trudy Small and I am happy to be your nurse at this fantastic school. My husband Greg and I reside in Townsend DE and we have two sons, two daughters, and a Yorkie named River!

I have been a registered nurse for nearly 30 years. As a registered nurse, I have had the pleasure of working in community health, camps, and school nursing. In my leisure time, I love spending time with my family and friends, listening to music, and reading. I also enjoy relaxing at the beach and anything outdoors.

I look forward to a happy healthy school year. Feel Free to stop in and say hello anytime!

## Girls on the Run Coming Soon

Season: February 24<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>



Please be on the lookout for more information concerning the Girls on the Run program here at Downes! The site describes the program as a 10-week after-school program for grades 3 through 5 that is designed to inspire girls of all abilities to recognize and embrace their inner strength. Lessons emphasize the important connection between physical and emotional health. At the end of the program, girls participate in a 5K, which provides a tangible sense of accomplishment, setting a confident and goal-oriented mindset into motion.

We look forward to another great season here at Downes and hope that we have a lot of girls who are interested in joining! More information to come!

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Shark Pride Stride

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Shark Pride Stride took place and was a huge success! Thanks to all of the community sponsors and student and staff donations we continue to surpass our goals! This year, our grand total was \$31,157 raised, what an accomplishment! To mark such a great accomplishment, our wonderful principal, Ann Park, will dress like a super hero for a day and stand out by the road way to welcome the students into school.

As in years past, all of the proceeds will go to Downes PTA who helps to provide extra funds for the school. The PTA supports educational programs, technology, cultural enhancement activities, teachers' classroom expenses, positive behavior incentives, Fun in the Sun, and the TREK program.

In addition, last year's Shark Pride Stride funds went to the following:

Smartboard, Projector, Laptops, Walkies for all staff, Intervention materials, Interactive read aloud books for each grade level - recommended by the district, Learning A to Z website licenses for teachers for each grade level - recommended by the district, Book shelves for storing materials, Standing desks, Music Cart and several iPads.



- 198 students earned Monster clips.
- 180 students earned a Tee-shirt.
- 172 students earned at least one raffle ticket.
- 66 Student earned Superstar status
- Congratulations to **Charlotte Berk-Lofts**, the Highest School Fundraiser!
- Congratulations to **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Team Hardy** who had 95% participation!
- Congratulations to **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Team Tang** who averaged \$183 per student!











## Most Active Classroom Award!



In order to promote healthy lifestyles, more specifically walking and biking to school and just being active, Downes introduced a new healthy initiative titled “The Most Active Classroom Award.” The Most Active Classroom Award is announced and awarded at the end of every quarter to the grade levels that have the most active students including walking and biking to school and participating in movement throughout the day. This year, we have added another component which is Go Noodle use! The two classrooms with the most completed punch cards plus highest Go Noodle use is awarded the Most Active Classroom Plaque (K-2 and 3-5). It is displayed proudly outside of each classroom until the next quarter’s winner is announced. The first marking period winners for the 2019/2020 school year are Ms. Tang’s 2nd grade and Ms. Chen’s 3rd grade! Let’s keep up the good work and keep moving!



## A Page from the Library

Hi Downes family!

Boy is this year flying by! We've had so much fun and have done so many cool things in the library! September was a time to review the Dewey, remember where books are located, and remind ourselves of our library expectations. October covered so many topics – genre, kindness, parts of a book, bats, spiders, some 'not too scary' fun books too! In November we worked on reading comprehension, Veteran's Day, families, cursive writing, and some fun Thanksgiving books. In December we are working on books about money, weather/climate, reference books (almanacs), reindeer, and of course holiday books.

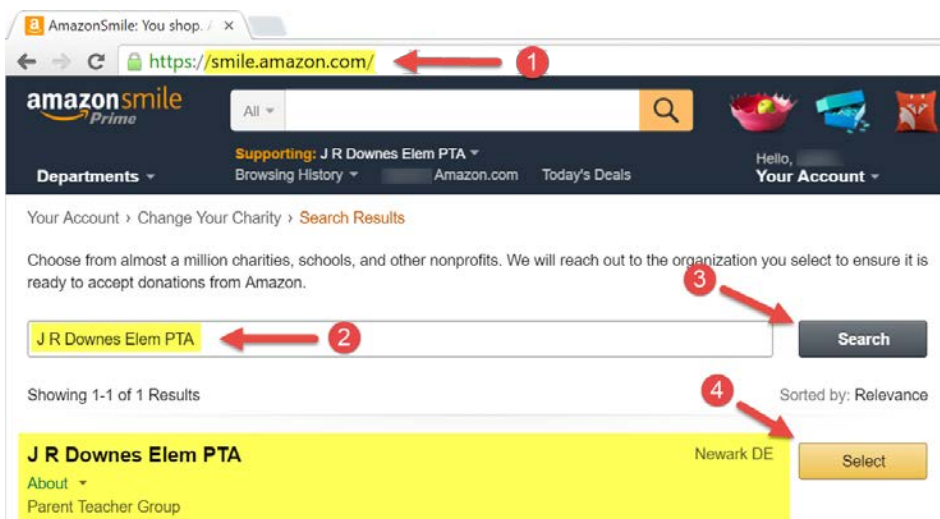
Please help me help your students – remind your son/daughter of their library day so they can make sure that their book is in their book bag and ready for school! And don't forget the importance of reading each night. It's another great way to bond with a child.

Lastly, I just want to let my amazing Downes family know that I am retiring on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. It was a very difficult decision, but after 8 years, I need to start a new 'chapter.' I have loved all your kids and hope that in some way I have gotten them to love reading just a little bit more. I hope to stay involved with Downes because I will miss my kiddos very much! But I'm also looking forward to what comes next. Thank you for sending your children to Downes. They have a huge piece of my heart!

Mary Coyle  
Downes Librarian

## Shop on Amazon? Support Downes while Shopping

Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) when you shop and select J R Downes Elem PTA as your Charity. Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases.



### FAQs from Amazon Smile

#### What is Amazon Smile?

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com.

#### Can I change my charity?

Yes, you can change your charity any time.

#### How do I shop at Amazon Smile?

To shop at Amazon Smile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return.

#### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on Amazon Smile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and Amazon Smile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

Downes Elementary School is also registered for Coke Rewards. Sign up by going to: <https://us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/>

Parents can help in one of three ways. Either enter your points yourself online using the link above, clip and send your codes along with your boxtops, or use your smartphone to take a picture of the code and text it to Kevin Bohrer @ 302-528-0666 and I will enter them. The code from a 20oz soda gets us 5 cents, the code from a 12-pack gets us 15 cents and the code from the 35 packs (Costco, BJ's, etc) get us 38 cents. It really does add up!

## Box Tops for Education

Downes Elementary School is registered with the Box Tops for Education (BTFE) program. Our 2019-20 School Year goal is \$1000. We fell short of our goal last year so we need your support to hit our goal. I know we can do it, but we need everyone's help!



They frequently run sweepstakes and schools can win 5000 or even 10,000 boxtops (that's \$500 or \$1000). Be sure to check out the Box Tops for Education website ([www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com)) and follow them on Facebook and you will see when a new sweepstakes starts. You can always enter the sweepstakes' DAILY so enter often to increase our chances of winning. We haven't won one yet, but the more we enter the better our chances!

**ATTENTION 2019 Homeroom Parents:** If you are in your child's classroom and see the extra school supplies (Ziploc, Kleenex, etc.) please check them for boxtops and take a few moments to cut them off and put them in the submission box. Everyone gets us 10 cents closer to our goal!

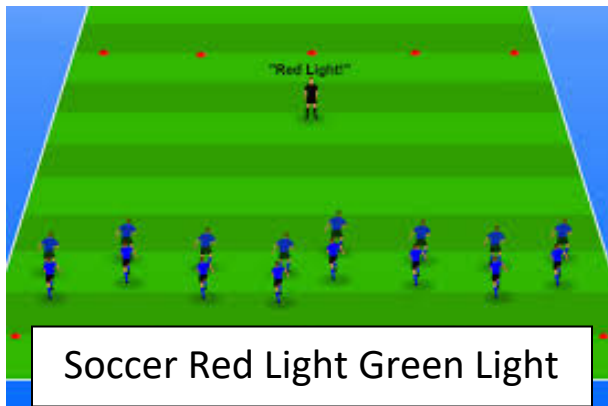
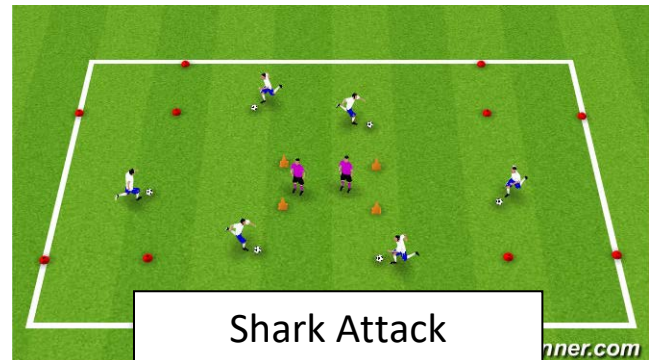
NEW!! Starting in 2019, the boxtops program is transitioning from physical boxtops that you clip and submit, to digital boxtops. Digital boxtops work by way of scanning your grocery store receipts. You will see a boxtop logo on your product, but instead of clipping it, you will open the BTFE app on your phone and scan the store receipt. That money then gets directly deposited into Downes' account. For clippable boxtops, please continue to send them in groups of 25 in an envelope or baggie marked with your child's full name and homeroom number. If possible, put this information on a piece of paper inside the baggie because we reuse the baggies for submission. Clipping them neatly and checking expiration dates on Box Tops is also greatly appreciated. Collection boxes are located in each classroom and the main office.

Questions? Contact [Kevin Bohrer](mailto:Kevin.Bohrer@downesboxtops@gmail.com) at [downesboxtops@gmail.com](mailto:downesboxtops@gmail.com).

## PE Corner



Let me tell you how we “roll” in PE class! During the months of November and December, the students will set goals to score goals! From Kindergarten to Fifth grade, the students will work on various soccer related foot skills and put them to the test in small-sided soccer related games. Check below for some of the activities and games your students have participated in on a weekly basis. Take some time to have them teach you some of the skills they have learned and practiced! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out and contact me over email or class dojo at [connie.spedden@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:connie.spedden@christina.k12.de.us).



## Shark of the Month – October Superstars

### Kindergarten

Ahron Cho  
Lee Meehan  
Jonathan Frank  
Francesca Stengari  
Rachel Popoca-Cruz  
Jordan Santos-Cruz  
Ryder O’Brien  
Ibbie Slaton

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Veronica Alves  
Defne Uygur  
Jack Kohn  
Brynlee Mittelmeier  
Kaitlin Le  
Emmett LeHeune  
Kimberli Garcia  
Franklin Garwood

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Violet O’Brien  
Madelyn Torres  
Cole Slaton  
Farah Soliman  
Chase Grabusky  
Ayanna Summers  
Synia Savage-Robison  
Joshwa Mahniam

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Aiden Martin  
Sarah Powell  
Rocco Amos  
Anabelle Mazzio  
Bryan Guo  
Ny’Zeilah Loper  
Sienna Stengari  
Zoe Womack

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Xander Lin  
Isabella Mena-Lima  
Alek Batula  
Vic’Kye Jones  
Aryan Shaw

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Alyssa Brown  
Allison Simone  
Meghan Gould  
Edgar Ledezma-Gomez  
Jaelen Murphy  
Cora Meegan  
Zyla Yetter  
Jayden Lara

IT'S TIME FOR OUR

# SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

**After School Hours**

Tue. 12/3 4p-5:30p

**Family Literacy Night**

Thu. 12/5 6p-8p

All purchases benefit  
our school!



SCHOLASTIC

Visit the Downes' Book Fair website at:

[www.scholastic.com/bf/  
downeselementaryschool](http://www.scholastic.com/bf/downeselementaryschool)

- ✓ Sign-up to Volunteer
- ✓ Login and set up the **NEW** e-wallet for easy payment
- ✓ Browse books
- ✓ Shop:
  - Browse the flyer
  - Create a Wish List
  - Pay with e-wallet (or cash, check, or credit card)
  - Family are welcome to join their child to shop (Students will visit the fair during their weekly library time.)
  - **Miss the Book Fair or need more time?** Shop online 11/27 – 12/10.

Questions or concerns? Contact Allison Gobeil  
(302) 545-1676 [starr.allison@gmail.com](mailto:starr.allison@gmail.com)

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## Sharkifieds

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eddie@wishuponacastle.com

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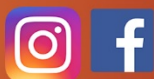
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**Proud to be locally owned and operated since 2000**



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**(302)266-6993**  
**www.HomeGrownCafe.com**  
**126 East Main St., Newark**

# PTA NEEDS YOU!



We need your help. We have several committee level position open for the 2019-2020 school year. If we are unable to fill these positions our students, families and teachers may miss out on valuable opportunities!

## Open Committee Chairs:

- Reflections
- Mom's Breakfast
- Helping Hands
- Dad's Breakfast
- Advocacy
- Grant Writers



You must be a member, or willing to become a member, of the PTA to apply. If you need more information, are interested in a position, or know someone who might be a good fit, please contact Lori Nesnow at [lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com) or Andreya Mihalow at [andreyamihaloew@gmail.com](mailto:andreyamihaloew@gmail.com).

**FRIENDS - YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU!**

We have fun! We help raise for our school/kids. We are endangered party animals. We don't bite.

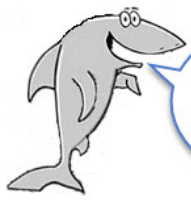
We welcome dads, mums, grandparents and anyone with an interest in the school

-BUT: I don't have enough time!

-NEITHER DO WE! IT'S ABOUT A LOT DOING A LITTLE!

You could be brave and join in our meeting

# PTA Corner: Why Join the PTA?



**We Want You!**  
Join & Support  
Downes  
Elementary School

The PTA at Downes isn't just bake sales! When you join the PTA, you signal that you are involved with the school. You have opportunities to network with the principal, teachers, district administrators, and other parents. The PTA offers educational lectures and workshops. When you are a part of the PTA, you are part of a powerful voice of advocacy for our school. Please join us!

Questions about PTA Membership, contact Lori Nesnow at [lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com) or Andrey Mihalow at [andreyamihaloew@gmail.com](mailto:andreyamihaloew@gmail.com). To join or renew your membership, please send the completed membership form and payment in an envelope or baggie to school or drop off in the office. Or sign-up via online registration at [downespta.memberhub.store](http://downespta.memberhub.store) and select Single Membership for \$8, Double Membership for \$15, or Triple Membership \$21.

Meetings are held at 6pm the first Tuesday of every month (unless otherwise noted) in the library and childcare is usually provided in the cafeteria. Check our website to confirm meeting dates: [https://www.downes.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=218287&type=d](https://www.downes.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=218287&type=d) Like the [John R. Downes PTA](#) on Facebook to get up to the minute announcements and to network with other Downes Elementary parents.

**DOWNES ELEMENTARY PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
Simply return this to school with your child or drop it in the PTA mailbox in the main office

\$8 single membership      cash  
 \$15 two memberships      check (Payable to Downes PTA) ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$21 three memberships      Optional Tax Deductible DONATIONS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member 1**  
 Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
 address \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name(s) / Homeroom Teacher (s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Member 2**  
 Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
 address \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name(s) / Homeroom Teacher (s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Member 3**  
 Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
 address \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name(s) / Homeroom Teacher (s) \_\_\_\_\_

## K-Kids Club



The K-Kids Club has been collecting aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House is for families whose children are in the A.I. Hospital for Children and those families can stay at the house. Money is earned to run the house by taking just the aluminum tabs to a Recycling Facility. In one recent year they earned \$55,000. That's a lot of tabs collected!!!! This fundraiser is on-going throughout the school year so start now collecting the aluminum tabs. Just drop off the tabs in the school office. This is a win, win, win situation!!! The earth wins by recycling, the Ronald McDonald House wins by earning money, and you win by drinking and eating food from the cans you have purchased. Thanks ahead of time from the K-Kids' Club!!!!



## Math and Literacy Night at Downes

This years, Math and Literacy Night will take place on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for staff and families to get to know each other as well as learn more about the curriculum. There will be a Chinese performance featuring some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students as well as a guest visit from published author Ryan Gebhart ([www.ryandgebhart.com](http://www.ryandgebhart.com)). His second book in his series Jewel for Life will be available for purchase.



Alone in the Illumined Wood after fleeing in the midst of the devastating attack on Ceurenyl, Devlyn wrestles with his doubts and choices. Even as he struggles to understand the meaning of the ancient prophecy, the young elf grows closer to the last phoenix...

# Downes Elementary School

## Car Rider, Parent Pickup and Walker Dismissal Framework

Please Reference the Dismissal Map

**Goal:** Student safety and expedite the dismissal process efficiently and promptly for Walkers, Car Riders, Parents, Crossing Guard, and School Staff

**Note:** Parents meeting students in designated pickup area should not double park in the school's parking lot or along drive going behind the school (cones will mark No Parking Area)

### Students Being Picked Up for Early Dismissal

By: 2:50 pm

### Car Rider and Walker Student Dismissal Times

Kindergarten: 3:17 pm

Grades 1-5: 3:20 pm

#### Car Rider Circle

##### Pickup

- Drivers remain in cars and in a single lane
- Drivers picking up Kindergarten students may arrive by 3:07 pm as they are the first dismissed
- Maintain safe distances from other cars
- Slow speed when navigating through the pickup circle
- Student safely in vehicle slowly exit

#### Meet Student at Dismissal Outside Gym

##### Meet Student

- Drivers park along adjoining neighborhood streets to school parking lot/car rider circle
- Note: Drivers should not double park in the school parking lot
- Walk to meet student outside of the gym doors
- Accompany student back to parked car

### Exit Procedures

**Goal:** Reduce the number of vehicles the crossing guard is directing entering and exiting the school's parking lot at dismissal

### Vehicle's Exiting School's Parking Lot

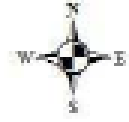
#### No Left Turn onto Rahway Rd between 8:10-8:40 am and 3:20-3:40 pm (at the crossing guard)

**Goal:** To increase safety for student walkers and improve the flow of car turning onto Rahway Rd. from Casho Mill Road to pick up their students

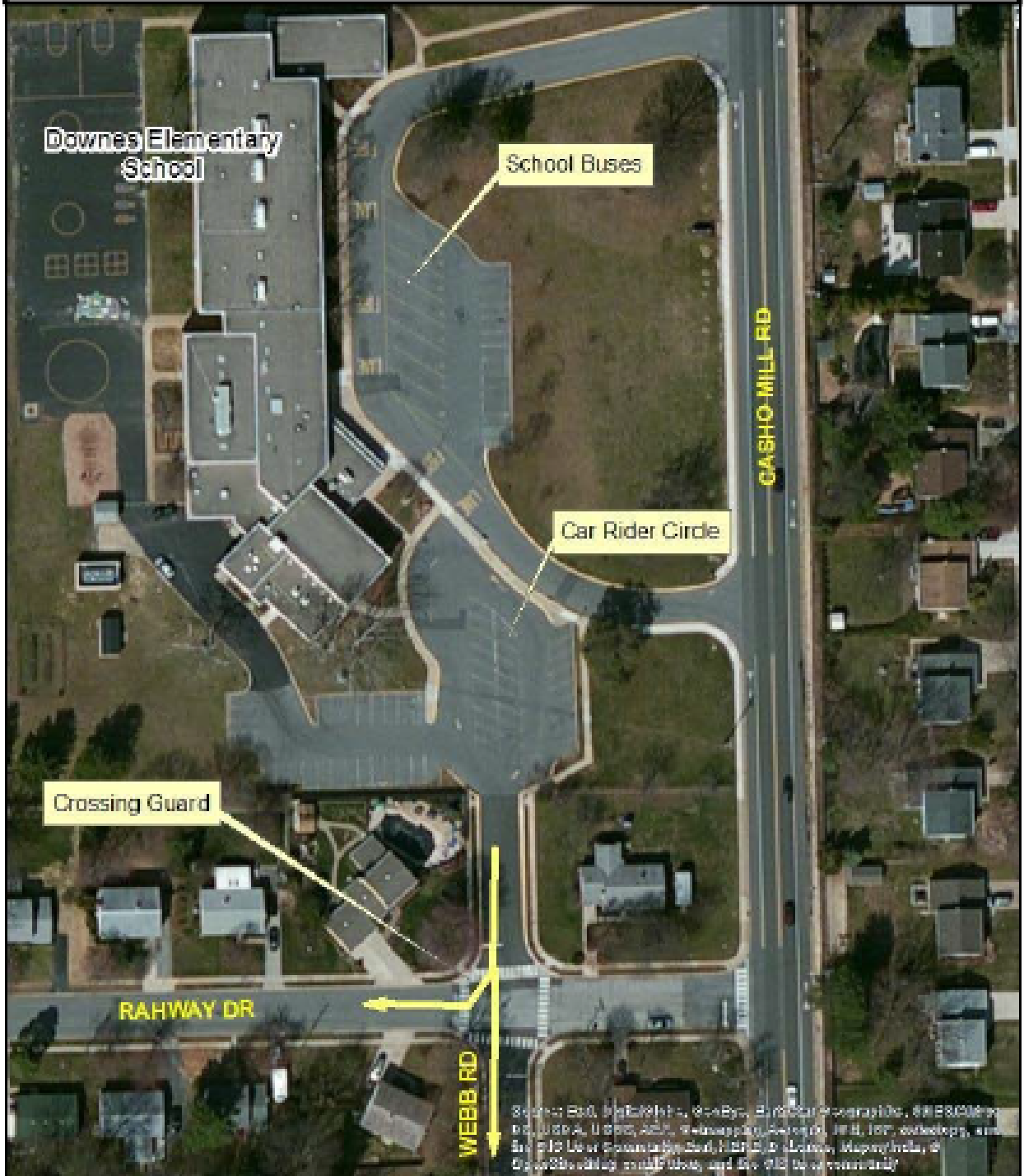
### \*\*\*All Vehicles - Exiting Routes\*\*\*

1. Proceed straight on Webb Rd. and left onto Pickett Ln. to Casho Mill Rd.
2. Turn right onto Rahway Rd. and left onto Barksdale Rd. to Casho Mill Rd.

# Downes Elementary School Dismissal Reference Map



0 60 120 240  
Feet



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar OpenSource, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGC, GeoEye, and Swire. © 2013 Esri. All rights reserved. Microsoft, Bing, and the MSN logo are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

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the communities we serve.

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302-737-2600

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[www.skyzone.com/newark](http://www.skyzone.com/newark)

# Parent Back to School Newsletter

## School Breakfast and Lunch Program

### School Year 2019-2020



#### Meal Benefit Forms

A NEW meal benefit form is due each year. There are 3 ways to access these forms.

- You may complete an online application at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com)
- Print form from [www.christinak12.org/CNS](http://www.christinak12.org/CNS) and return to the cafeteria
- Pick up a paper copy at your school and return to the cafeteria

If your child(ren) received *Free or Reduced* priced meals last year, they will automatically receive these meals up to 30 days or until a new form has been processed. If a new form has not been processed by *October 17, 2019* he/she will have to pay full price for meals.

#### Cafeteria Prices

##### Breakfast:

Grades PK-5	\$0.80
Grades 6-12	\$1.00
Reduced Price	\$0.25
Adult	\$2.50

##### Lunch:

Grades PK-5	\$1.50
Grades 6-12	\$1.75
Reduced Price	\$0.40
Adult	\$3.75
Milk	\$0.35

#### Prepayments for Meals

Online payments are accepted at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). This gives families the option to view balances and account activity. A convenience fee of \$1.75 for every transaction is required.



#### Unpaid Meal Charges

- Accounts with unpaid meal charges should be paid promptly
- No snacks or seconds can be charged
- Elementary students who forget money will be able to charge a meal to be paid later
- Grades 6-12 with a negative balance equaling one week of meals, will be given a courtesy meal for lunch

#### PIN Numbers = Student ID Number (6 Digits)

Student's cafeteria pin number is their Student ID number which allows students and parents/guardians to purchase meals or make payments in any cafeteria in the district.

#### Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Certain schools in Christina are operating under the "Community Eligibility Provision".

- All enrolled students are eligible to receive a breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge**.
- No need to submit a meal benefit form for child(ren) enrolled at a CEP school.

If you have additional children attending other schools in the district not participating in CEP, you will be required to fill out a meal benefit form to be eligible for free/reduced meal pricing at those locations.

#### Breakfast In the Classroom

More than half of the schools in Christina School District are allowing students to eat breakfast in their classroom. This initiative helps increase access for all students and helps ensure students start their day off with a nutritious breakfast.

#### Healthy Meals/Snack & Wellness

All Christina schools meet the tough federal nutrition standards for school meals, ensuring that meals are healthy and well-balanced & provide students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school.

Healthy snacks/beverages that meet smart snack guidelines are available in most schools for an additional cost, ranging from \$0.25 – \$1.25. For specific products call your school cafeteria.

Candy & soda are not permitted and baked goods discouraged. It is recommended that non-food items such as a book are used for classroom celebrations instead of food items.

#### Food Allergies

If your child is allergic to food, please provide a signed physician note stating the allergy. *If a special menu is needed, the Registered Dietitian will create a menu for your child with proper documentation.*



# Cafeteria Corner December 2019



## Holiday Madness

The holidays can be a hectic time of year. Don't let the craziness keep you from your health goals. Keep these tips in mind for a truly happy holiday.

- \*When hosting or attending a party, bring a healthy dish like veggies and dip. There will be plenty of others bringing cookies, cakes, and other treats.
- \*Instead of toys as presents, consider buying tickets to an active event the whole family can enjoy.
- \*Everything in moderation. Limit yourself to a small treat every day.
- \*Remember what really matters. The holidays are a time to be with the ones you love, so spend time with them and out of the kitchen.



## "SNOW-DAY!!"

When the kids are home from school, take time as a family to play. Whether you're out in the snow, or warming up inside, there are tons of fun ways to stay active on a snow day!

- \*Build a snowman that looks like each member of the family.
- \*Take a walk in the snow.
- \*Create the world's best snow fort, complete with a secret stash of snow balls.
- \*Go sledding on a hill near your house.
- \*Set up an obstacle course for the whole family to go through.
- \*Throw a dance party inside.



## Snow Day **Apple Sandwich**

<b>Ingredients</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Apple</li><li>• 1 T Peanut or Almond Butter</li><li>• ½ T Chocolate Chips</li><li>• 1 T Granola, low-fat</li></ul>
<b>Directions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Core apple and slice crosswise into 1 inch-thick slices.</li><li>• Spread one side of apple slice with nut butter</li><li>• Sprinkle chocolate chops and granola on top of the nut butter.</li><li>• Place second apple slice on top, making a sandwich.</li></ul>

# First things First



# BREAKFAST @SCHOOL

For first-class learning!

CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Prices (Non-CEP)\*

- Elementary Student Breakfast: \$0.80
- Secondary Student Breakfast: \$1.00
- Reduced Student Breakfast: \$0.25

### Adult Breakfast: \$2.50

\*If your school participates in CEP (community eligibility provision), a breakfast meal is provided at no cost to all students daily.

**BREAKFAST@SCHOOL** helps keep kids healthy and gives them the energy they need to learn.

## Available Daily!

- Choice of Crunchmania, Yogurt or Cereal w/Graham Cracker
- 100% Fruit Juice & Assorted Fresh Fruit
- Milk Choices: 1% White, Fat-Free White, Chocolate, Strawberry or Lactaid

Enjoy your Breakfast!

Monday, December 2  
Raspberry Turnover

Monday, December 9  
Mini Waffles OR  
Mini Pancakes

Monday, December 16  
Raspberry Turnover

We wish you & your family a warm & happy holiday season!



Tuesday, December 3  
Breakfast Egg Taco  
(made with turkey sausage)  
OR Chewy Oatmeal Bar

Tuesday, December 10  
Breakfast Egg Wrap  
OR Cereal Bar w/ Graham Cracker

Tuesday, December 17  
Breakfast Egg Taco  
(made with turkey sausage)  
OR Chewy Oatmeal Bar

Wednesday, December 4  
Mini French Toast  
OR Oatmeal

Wednesday, December 11  
Piggletstick  
(pancake wrapped turkey sausage)

Wednesday, December 18  
Mini French Toast  
OR Oatmeal

Thursday, December 5  
Mini Bagels

Thursday, December 12  
Mini Cinni

Thursday, December 19  
Mini Bagels

Friday, December 6  
Assorted Breakfast Muffins

Friday, December 13  
Assorted Breakfast Breads

Friday, December 20  
Assorted Breakfast Muffins

Enjoy your Breakfast!



## BREAKFAST MENU FOR DECEMBER 2019 ELEMENTARY/DSD/BRENNEN

Menu is subject to change.



See You Next Year!



Last day of school: Friday, December 20  
Classes Resume: Thursday, January 2



# Menus December 2019

Menus are subject to change.

Prices (Non-CEP)\*

- Elementary Student Lunch: \$1.50**  
Elementary Second Lunch: \$1.75
- Secondary Student Lunch: \$1.75**  
Secondary Second Lunch: \$2.00
- Reduced Student Lunch: \$0.40**  
Adult Lunch: \$3.75

Milk: \$0.35

\*CEP Schools provide one breakfast & lunch meal at no cost to all students daily.

## Available Daily

- PBJ Meal, Black Bean Veggie Burger, Cheese Sandwich, Chef Salad, Dairy Fuel Pack, Fresh Fruit, Fresh Vegetables w/Light Ranch Dip**
- Milk Choice: 1% White, Fat-Free White, Chocolate, Strawberry or Lactaid**

**Monday, December 2**

**Choose One:**  
Chicken Patty Sandwich  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Oven Baked Fries  
Fresh Grape Tomatoes  
Craisins

**Monday, December 9**

**Choose One:**  
Cheesy Breadsticks  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Steamed Broccoli Florets  
Assorted Fresh Vegetables  
Sour Raisins

**Tuesday, December 3**

**Choose One:**  
2 Cheese Grilled Cheese  
Greek Chicken Salad  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Tomato Soup  
Fresh Celery Sticks  
Applesauce Cup  
*Winter Birthday Treat*

**Tuesday, December 10**

**Choose One:**  
Mandarin Chicken w/ Brown Rice & Dinner Roll  
Tuna Salad Platter  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Asian Mixed Vegetables  
Roasted Red Pepper Hummus w/Fresh Celery Sticks  
Pineapple/Mandarin Oranges

**Wednesday, December 4**

**Choose One:**  
French Bread Pizza  
Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Steamed Carrots  
Popeye Spinach Salad  
Chilled Peas

**Wednesday, December 11**

**Choose One:**  
Personal Pan Pizza  
Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Power Punch Peas  
Garden Fresh Salad w/ Italian Dressing  
Mixed Fruit Cup

**Thursday, December 5**

**Choose One:**  
Beef & Cheese Nachos  
Supreme w/ Seasoned Brown Rice  
Sweet & Sour Chicken Wrap  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Golden Corn  
Black Beans  
Applesauce Cup

**Thursday, December 12**

**Choose One:**  
Turkey Bacon Cheeseburger  
OR Veggie Burger  
Crispy Chicken Wrap  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Oven Baked Fries  
Roasted Red Pepper Hummus w/Fresh Crunchy Carrots  
Strawberry Cup

**Friday, December 6**

**Choose One:**  
Buffalo Chicken Cheesesteak  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
4-Way Mixed Vegetables  
Fresh Crisp Cucumber Slices  
Mixed Berry Cup

**Friday, December 13**

**Choose One:**  
Crunchy Sweet Potato Fish Nuggets w/ Mac & Cheese  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Stewed Tomatoes  
Fresh Sugar Snap Peas  
Chilled Peaches

**Friday, December 20**

**Choose One:**  
Manager's Choice  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Glazed Carrots  
Fresh Broccoli Florets  
Juicy Peaches

**Thursday, December 19**

**Choose One:**  
Chicken Tenders w/Dinner Roll  
Turkey Dijon Wrap  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Cheesy Cauliflower  
Apple Harvest Salad  
Apricot Cup  
Chicken Noodle Soup

**Wednesday, December 18**

**Choose One:**  
Cheese Pizza  
Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Italian Mixed Vegetables  
Fresh Green Pepper Strips  
Chilled Peas

**Tuesday, December 17**

**Choose One:**  
Oven Baked Chicken w/ Dinner Roll  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Cheesy Mashed Potatoes  
Steamed Green Beans  
Warm Apple Slices  
Candy Cane Ice Cream Cup

**Monday, December 16**

**Choose One:**  
Hot Dog (turkey) on Bun  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

**Fruit & Vegetable Sides:**  
Warm Vegetarian Beans  
Fresh Crunchy Carrots  
Craisins