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- DDPS had an on-Site Coaching Day with Desiree from Leader in Me. Desiree met with Action Teams and spent the day recharging the staff. Teachers enjoyed the day and reconnected with the importance of what we do and why we do it. Desiree also spoke of the importance of relationships and how, without them, it's nearly impossible to do our job, let alone, do it well. It was a very successful LIM day at DDPS!
- DDPS Student Leadership team planned a whole school Polar Express day. Students wore pajamas to school and boarded the "train". Student leaders greeted students at the front doors and bus ramp, handing out Polar Express train tickets and candy canes. DDES choir was singing Christmas carols in the front hallway. Once inside the classrooms, teachers planned events in their classrooms. Many classrooms made gingerbread houses, decorations, and wrote letters or cards for friends and families. Mr. Lehman featured the Polar Express on DDPS TV a few times during the day. Students enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies. Several parents attended classroom activities, too.
- DDPS recognized students who showed Primary Pride with a Primary Pride Surprise. This month the surprise was planned by the First Grade Team. Classes were invited to play several Winter games with their classmates. The students had a ball!



- DDPS was able to help many organizations for the holidays. Much kindness was shown as always. The staff had the opportunity to play "Santa" and help make miracles happen for our own DDPS families that needed assistance at the holidays. Staff members honored wishes from families' "wish lists" for Christmas.



- PASS Breakfast with Santa was December 15. Several teachers and IAs volunteered to help. Five DVHS/MS student volunteers helped as well. 76 present, former, and future DV students attended with their families. Each special needs child and sibling was given a kid-specific gift from Santa. Everyone enjoyed the pancake and sausage breakfast. All families had pictures taken with Santa and were given the picture in a small card frame. Over 300 people attended the event, including several families from Bushkill and Wallenpaupack.
- Lowes in Matamoras donated the Christmas Tree to the Primary School. The Student Lighthouse team decorated the tree which was placed in the front hall of the school for all to see.

- The annual DDPS cookie sale took place in December. DDPS sold 40 boxes of cookies for \$25/box. The \$1000 profit will be donated to PASS. Cookie boxes were assembled by the DDPS special education team and distributed on Thursday, December 20 to all who ordered. The boxes looked beautiful, and all who ordered were very pleased!
- In kindergarten at DDPS, students participated in many fun winter activities. Classes completed candy cane experiments, students made Christmas lava lamps, gingerbread houses, snow globes, Rudolph and snowmen. Students were able to wear pajamas to school and classes watched The Polar Express while having some hot chocolate and cookies the Friday before break! All classes went into the gym and sang holiday songs, the Grinch even stopped by to say hi to the kiddos. The kindergarten teachers worked very hard creating their bulletin boards. On one end of the kindergarten wing the bulletin boards and doors are decorated like one big Gingerbread House and on the other end of the kindergarten wing, there is the DDPS Express coming through the mountains with each student as a passenger.



- Second grade students had the chance to carol at the Santa Holiday Shop. Parents, students and staff enjoyed the Saturday event. Then, DDPS held their very own Holiday Shop and students enjoyed shopping for their families with the help of PTA volunteers. PTA set up the Holiday Shop and helped students shop for friends and families.
- Mrs. Dye, Mrs. LaPadula and Mrs. Palumbo's students designed and built gingerbread houses. Students had such fun adding candy decorations to their houses to make the houses more elaborate. Mrs. LaPadula's class also wrote a gingerbread girl or boy adventure! Ms. Garde's class had fun with creative writing, bringing a favorite toy to life! Students wrote and illustrated amazing stories.



- In Guidance, Mrs. Batista had a kindness tree, students placed ornaments on the tree for doing acts of kindness. Students brainstormed many ways to be kind to friends and family members as well as nice things to do in the community. Students also had fun thinking of ways to make the Grinch “Grin”. The two activities were on display outside of Mrs. Batista’s room during the month.



- DDPS staff participated in the annual ugly sweater day. Staff donned their best ugly sweaters and prizes were awarded!



- DDPS enjoyed it’s very first holiday sing along hosted and organized by Mrs. Caldwell and Mr. Burns. Students and staff gathered in the gym and to sing a variety of holiday tunes! While singing and enjoying the music, a surprise appearance of The Grinch made his way through the crowd! Students were delighted to see the Grinch and enjoyed singing and dancing with him. It was a great addition to the first annual holiday sing-along!

