This is the last newsletter of 2012. The end of the year is always a reflective time for me. It is a time that I try to remember the positive changes that I have made in my life, and gently remind myself of the work that I still need to tackle.

The tragic events last week at Sandy Hook Elementary School have resulted in a tornado of thoughts and emotions for all of us. As I think about this and I do my annual end of the year reflecting, there are a few things I would like to share.

We know that everyday is a gift. We love our family, our children and our friends. We treat the world around us with care and respect. We are grateful and thankful for so much. But I ask you this, do you take care of yourself? Do you give yourself the same love and attention and time? I do not. I will try to do this is the next year. I know intellectually that I can only be good for others in my life, if I am good to myself. It is a struggle for me.

Amidst these days of overwhelming sadness and confusion, I took the time to really notice all the kindness and love here in our community. We are all lucky to be apart of a community that is committed to our children and to kindness and respect. I felt support and comfort and love from the kids, the parents, my coworkers and I realized that this is there everyday. It is apart of whom we are as a community. It is my responsibility to pause enough each day to notice this and to gain strength from this.

Some housekeeping items to end the year with…

- The sign up sheets and information sheets about the after school Enrichment Program went home last Thursday. Please sign up for the classes your children are interested in, as some of the classes have a maximum number of kids they can take.
- We are up and running with Land’s End Clothing. Be proud of OGMS by showing off our logo on some amazing items of clothing. The website and more information are on a board in the lobby.
- Kelly Doubleday-Bush is arranging a ski club for Oak Grove. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Kelly at kellydb@sbcglobal.net.
- We are slowing making progress in our fundraising efforts through some of the “easy” ways. If you shop at Target or at Stop and Shop or at Big Y and are not signed up for our school programs with those stores, please please please do so. There is information in the Parent Handbook, or come in and ask. All these “littles” can add up to a big!
- The PA meeting in January was moved up to January 9th to make it easier on our re-entry back to school after the break. Please join us on the 9th. The two directors from the Windham Area Hour Exchange will be here to present information about this amazing community organization and to answer any questions.
I would like to send my warmest thanks and gratitude to Lidia Howard for her many years serving on our Board of Trustees. Lidia’s term has ended. We will miss her hard work, effort and insights that she gave to the board. However, we are comforted by the knowledge that she will be a part of our community for many many years. Thank you Lidia and Greg for your long hours, your generous donations, and for the many many contributions you have given to our school. Thank you mostly for the friendship and the support and for sharing your beautiful children with us.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season filled with love and peace and hope. I hope you can all join us for the Winter Solstice Celebration and Festival of Lights tomorrow night. It will be a wonderful way for us to come together and celebrate our community.

Thank you again for the kindness and support I feel each day.

In Peace,
Sue