

Holiday Hope Chests



Dear Parents and Students,

Our class has decided to do a small service project to help young children who will have to spend the holidays in the hospital. For over twelve years, families and other groups have assembled Holiday Hope Chests, a project created by Kids Care Clubs. A Holiday Hope Chest is a special gift, which enables the children who make them to imagine the child who will be receiving the chest. Each chest is filled with small toys, games, and art supplies, chosen especially for a girl or boy of a specific age. Students will also make a holiday card to enclose in the chest. The chest gives the receiving child a "treasure chest" in which to keep the items together. Holiday Hope Chests are distributed to thousands of children in shelters, pediatric clinics, community centers and foster care agencies across the United States. Our Holiday Hope Chests will be delivered to children at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor during the holiday break.

I will be bringing hope chests (shoe boxes) to school next week for students to decorate. I am asking that each student bring 3-5 items to add to one of the hope chests. Please be sure to bring items that are not used. (Dollar stores are great places to shop!) With 27 students in our class, we should have enough "treasures" to fill 13 chests. *If you have any extra shoe boxes at home that you can donate, please send them to school with your child ASAP.*

We will be creating hope chests for children ages 6-9. Below is a list of possible things your child could bring to add to one of the Holiday Hope Chests.

crayons, pencils, markers, notepaper, notepads, glue, Play Doh, flash cards, stickers, small toys, small books, magazines, Legos, hair bands, card games, small stuffed animals, magnets, etc. Please do not bring candy, toys with many small parts, or toys that promote violence like toy guns or action figure with guns or battle gear. (This list includes only a few ideas. *feel free to bring things that are not on the list, but remember that the items must fit in a shoebox. All items must be new (unopened) so that germs are not passed on to the young recipients.*

While we will be decorating the boxes on Tuesday, the "treasures" with which we will fill the Holiday Hope Chests do not need to be brought to school until Wednesday. However, all items can be sent to school any day next week if you decide to shop early. I am asking that girls buy items that would be desirable for a 6-9 year-old girl and that boys bring gifts that would be desirable for a 6-9 year old boy. If you are unable to participate in this service project, I understand completely.

Thanks so much for helping your child make another child's holiday a little better!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Newingham