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December 16, 2022

Dear Students and Families of the Philomath School District:

*'Twas the last day before break, and all through our schools,  
Students and staff are whirling, seeking sugar for fuel.  
Lockers, coat hooks, and cubbies will empty,  
Each 'lost & found' box is overflowing aplenty...*

Adapted from "The Night Before Christmas", 12/23/1823.

While there is no snow to see this morning as I look out my window, it is clear that winter is here. The cool, crisp air is asserting its position in earnest. Buses will run in a few hours, followed by parking lots emptying. While I know some will be traveling during the break, others have plans to stay closer to home. Whatever your plans, I hope that these next two weeks are safe, enjoyable, healthy, and restorative.

### **Thank You, Philomath!**

The past three weeks have been filled with illness for many students and staff. Thank you for keeping students at home when ill. While we certainly miss our students, we support safety and health for all.

### **Winter Celebrations:**

Thanks to each of our schools for hosting winter celebrations this month. For me, the holiday season does not begin until I hear the PES choir sing at the Philomath Christmas Tree Lighting. From this event, school celebrations continued through the past two weeks.

With the school closure in Blodgett, I know that there is sadness about having the postpone the winter celebration. I am happy to report that the Blodgett Winter Program will be presented when school resumes in January!

Much like we wear layers to protect ourselves from the cold, it is important to layer our health and safety protections. We hope that each of you stay healthy and safe over these next two weeks.

*... We love our students and staff a great deal,  
Seeing students in-person increases our zeal.  
We want to exclaim as we go home for the night,  
Happy Holidays to all, and to all rest and light.*

Adapted from "The Night Before Christmas", 12/23/1823.