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**Rita Cheek – Superintendent**  
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**Kimberly Coulter – Principal**  
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December 19, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Happy Tuesday!** This was another great week to be a Genesee STEM robot! On Monday evening and this afternoon, a huge number of parents came out to learn and celebrate diversity during our “Holidays Around the World” program. Students used song, dance and choral readings to demonstrate their understanding of a variety of holidays in the United States, Germany, Mexico, Israel, and China, including Kwanzaa, Eid, Christmas, Hanukkah, and the Chinese New Year.

This wonderful program was the culmination of the GSTEMA family thinking collaboratively and demonstrating teamwork. Special shout out to the countless parents who donated cookies and punch, as well as their time and ideas to help shape the program. Thank you to the entire Holiday Committee, led by Mrs. Gaylord and Mr. Gardner, and our entire student body and staff. Thank you to all of the 7th-9th graders and Ms. Gassel who worked behind the scene to create the beautiful decorations, program, lighting, and helped to ensure that our families had a good time. Lastly, thank you to our custodial team for doing a fantastic job ensuring that our school is always immaculate! Teamwork makes the dream work!

**Speaking of teamwork, the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period ends January 26, 2018.** Parents, this is another opportunity to showcase the academic talents of all our GSTEMA scholars! Please encourage your child to get extra practice over the holiday break by using using Mobi Max, Study Island, ConnectEd, Envision Math and Khan Academy, just to name a few. Ask your child their username and password and get started. Encourage your child to be a top scholar. This is another way to encourage excellence.

**This month, we will host the “Give Me an S. Stay Safe!” Essay Contest.** Please encourage your child to write about the things that they do each day to promote safety at school. Writing rubrics will be distributed in order for all participants to understand the criteria for the contest. The deadline to enter has been extended to Friday, January 10, 2018. The prizes are listed below:

**K-2**

1<sup>st</sup> place-\$10.00 Visa Card  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-\$5.00 Toys R Us Card  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Fidget Spinner

**3-6**

1<sup>st</sup> place-\$25.00 Visa Card  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Writing Set  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-50 Robotbucks

**7-9**

1<sup>st</sup> place-\$50.00 Visa Card  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Bluetooth Headphones  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-\$10.00 Burger King Card

**Parents, please be aware that the cellphone policy will be amended. Effective January 3, 2017 students will not be allowed to store their cellphones in the Main Office. The amended policy will be sent home when we return from break. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen devices.**

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**Genesee STEM Academy Mission**

The mission of Genesee STEM Academy is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for students to develop a passion for lifelong learning, a strong academic foundation, and exposure to the key fields of science and technology, engineering, and math.

**Important Dates**  
**December 20-January 2 Winter Break**  
**January 3-School Resumes**  
**January 26-End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period**

Lastly, please encourage your child to stay safe by refraining from throwing snowballs. Students who throw snowballs will be suspended for three days. Enjoy this wonderful holiday season. See you next year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Coulter', written in a cursive style.

Kimberly Coulter