**WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE**

The purpose of the White Elephant Gift Exchange is to provide a FUN and INEXPENSIVE activity at our Holiday party. If you/your child have not participated in a White Elephant Gift Exchange, it is important that you know what to expect ahead of time so that you will not be disappointed.

What is a WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT? This is something that you already have at home. It can be **something you have never used or only gently used** and no longer want. It needs to be in **good/working condition**. It should be something that other kids your age or slightly younger (6th – 8th grade boys/girls) would be interested in having. **It should be worth about $3.00 - $5.00.**

Examples – a CD, a DVD, jewelry, trinkets, books, games, toys, etc.

(If you are not sure if what you have qualifies, communicate with Ms. Smith and she will help you decide.)

What do you mean about ‘expectations’? This is a FUN (silly) game – but if you have brought an expensive gift (worth more than $5.00) that is brand new – and you end up with a small tub of matchbox cars (for example), you might be disappointed – because you have expected to GET a gift as wonderful as the gift you brought. We have had a year where a student left the party in tears because of misplaced expectations.

**Now…the IMPORTANT PART is for you to wrap it up so appealingly, that EVERYONE wants your gift – based on how the package looks!**

We play the version of the game where each child who brings a gift gets a number. As a number is drawn out of a hat, the individual can pick any gift to open. When the second number is drawn, that individual can EITHER choose the gift that has already been unwrapped, OR choose an unopened gift. This continues with the 3rd person having the added choice of taking either of the already-opened gifts or an unopened one. (If person 2 takes the gift of person 1, then person 1 gets to open another unopened gift. You may not take back a gift in the next move from the person who took it from you.) Once a gift has been handed over the third time, it is for keeps and no one else can take it from that third owner/individual. After the whole activity is over, students may voluntarily switch with each other.