

# MLK

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School

“My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.”

—*Indira Gandhi (one of our morning quotes from April)*

Dear Families of the MLK School,

In addition to the torrential rain the past few weeks, there has been a noticeable atmosphere of pencils scribbling, heads scratching, and arms stretching in our classrooms over the past two weeks. Yes, we are near completion of the annual spring rite of state testing as students in grades 3 to 8 completed the English Language Arts Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Our students did an excellent job of working very hard—some classes worked close to five hours—and really tried their best to succeed. In multiple classrooms, some students even took off their shoes to get more comfortable for the testing. Many teachers commented that it seemed like our students put in more effort than ever before. **Please make sure to compliment your children on their great effort!** We will hold a pizza party this Wednesday to recognize their hard work and best efforts. Way to go!!

*Here are a few additional news and notes:*

- Congratulations to our third grade teacher, Ms. Kelly Langan, for being nominated as one of ten semi-finalists for the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year! She will also visit the State House on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, for a ceremony honoring excellence in teaching.
- Congratulations to our seventh grade student, Asad Lakhani, for being named one of the semifinalists by the National Geographic Society to compete in the 2010 Massachusetts Geographic Bee at Worcester State College on Friday, April 6. We wish him the best of luck!
- Ready for a spectacular show? Students and parents have been preparing for the M.L. King Talent Show in June. We will also fire up the grill for hot dogs and veggie burgers for a pre-show dinner in our beautiful school garden! Auditions are this Wednesday and Thursday.
- Interested in becoming more involved? We need you. Please contact Ms. Bethany Versoy at [bjversoy@earthlink.net](mailto:bjversoy@earthlink.net) or Ms. Rosalie Rippey at [rrippy@gmail.com](mailto:rrippy@gmail.com) for more information or stop by the main office and ask for ways to help at the school.
- Several exciting field trips are coming up that are sure to really excite our community. We are planning a visit to Sturbridge Village for our students in grades 3–5. A confirmed trip is on **Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, which is our Museum of Science Night** with the Amigos School. The science department, in conjunction with the MOS, will provide admission to the museum, tickets to an Omni show, free parking, and bus transportation for those that do not want to drive to the museum. This should be a fun evening! We hope you can make it.

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- **Progress reports** will go home with students next **Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please make sure to review this update with your child to ensure a strong finish to the school year.
- Our monthly School Council will be held in our garden on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30PM -7:00PM. CitySprouts will provide a brief update on our partnership and we will have a discussion on yearly school goals/subcommittees.
- Please remember that we have our April Vacation Break from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. When we return, our monthly school assembly will feature the NED Show, a character development/anti-bullying program, on the morning of Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a garden cleanup/work day this Thursday from 4–6PM. Please email Kim Goldstein from CitySprouts if you plan to attend at [kgoldstein@citysprouts.org](mailto:kgoldstein@citysprouts.org).

Before I conclude this update, I should add that I look forward to chaperoning our annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to China! We will leave this Friday and return in a week. Our group is thrilled about the opportunity to learn and reside in a Chinese school! I also look forward to immediately sharing our experiences via a web broadcast with our middle school students as we will be halfway across the world...though only a few clicks away on the Internet. Many thanks to our various charitable donors and sponsors. We look forward to sharing our stories when we return.

Sincerely,

Gerald Yung  
Principal