

MLK

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School

December 1, 2009

Dear Families,

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving break! As we approach the holiday season, I can't think of a better time to reflect on our wonderfully supportive relationships within our community. For instance, a little over two weeks ago, our middle school students shared in the trust that came from camping overnight in the Berkshires. Students learned how to work together on a variety of teambuilding activities such as climbing 25 feet in the air on ropes to an evening campfire with s'mores. Our students left a bit closer and more trusting of each other over those two days, especially for those who had never spent the night away from home or camped in the woods.

At our November parent conferences, it was fantastic to see and hear so many parents and teachers discussing specific student strengths, areas of improvement, and share in a wealth of information. There was a genuine level of trust and appreciation for all of our efforts in helping students succeed in school. It is also the lesser publicized events that occur on a daily basis—like watching a class ask thought-provoking questions on a student's poetry reading or our sixth-grade students engaged in a discussion on the use of ancient Carthaginians' submission tactics—that affirm our school's belief in the power of relationships and effective learning. These are deliberate actions that remind us of how to close the achievement gap and prepare our students for success.

Upcoming events/information:

- Math Game Night is next Tuesday, December 8th from 5:30-8:30PM. This is a fun way to play games as an M.L. King community!
- If you would like to volunteer to participate in a parent panel discussion on Dec. 16th with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding our Expanded Learning Time grant, please contact Ms. Haynes Taylor at chaynestaylor@cpsd.us.
- We will have several winter holiday concerts planned the last two weeks of December. Dates and times will be posted in the weekly "MLK Bulletins."
- On Thursday, January 21st our entire school will spend a day at the Museum of Science for our first all-school field trip! Younger grades will also visit the "Science in Park" exhibit while older grades will see an IMAX movie.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to an exciting month in December!

Sincerely,

Gerald Yung
Principal

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