

MLK

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School

June 1, 2010

Dear Families of the MLK School,

It is hard to believe that we are in the last month of school! As I said at last Friday's monthly assembly, these last weeks will be the greatest because we will continue to learn together, work together, and have fun together! While we will keep on working and learning as much as we can until the last day of school, I believe it is important to celebrate our accomplishments for the last newsletter of the year.

Here—in no particular order—are some of the highlights of the 2009–2010 school year:

- RISE (Respect Individual Self & Environment) began this year with student-led monthly assemblies, RISE tickets awards, and morning announcements. Students in all grades were reminded to RISE up and show respect to create a responsible and ideal school culture!
- Our wonderful middle school camping trip to the Berkshires in the autumn was a great combination of high-rope climbing, nighttime campfires, and shared moments! It is my belief that this trip significantly helped foster a more supportive middle school community.
- We revamped our report cards to improve communication and introduced letter grades for grades 3-5. The feedback on these report cards has been tremendously positive!
- Teachers taught Explorations this year! This strengthened our community by allowing students to be taught by teachers across cluster grades (K-2, 3-5, 6-8), decreased office referrals, and increased student enthusiasm. We look forward to continuing using common practices next year by focusing on small, guided reading groups and math games!
- We went on field trips galore! For the first time in at least a decade, our entire school left the building in January for a field trip to the Museum of Science and to see an IMAX movie. Teachers in every grade were highly encouraged to take advantage of our ideal location in Cambridge and explore the greater learning environment. Finally, every student in our school will be embarking on a field trip this last month that has been planned to excite our students in the joy of learning.
- Parent involvement dramatically improved this year. A parent group was formed and from those meetings a discussion group was created with close to 100 parents actively participating in it. Our parents joined numerous committees, contributed hundreds of hours, and helped push us along in the most challenging of times. Thank you!!

Of course, there are always the things that occur behind the scenes that made the big picture appear to work so seamlessly. I can't say enough about our coaches, administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, specialists, interns, students and parents! The bottom line is that this is a school that truly knows how to come and work together!

Sincerely,

Gerald Yung, M.Ed
Principal