

# **MLK**

## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School**

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties. ~US President Harry Truman

May 4, 2010

Dear Families of the MLK School,

It often seems like spring is here when there are longer daylight hours, baseballs being hit in Fenway Park, flowers blooming, MCAS testing, and grant applications. Yes, I know the last two were academic, but it's important that I share with you important news on this front. Grants have been and are important avenues of funding and resources to pilot our progressive curriculum.

Our Ni Hao Mandarin Chinese program continues to offer our students the distinct advantage of learning the world's most spoken language at an early age. Over the past few years, Mandarin Chinese has become an extremely popular language of study for Americans and has garnered the support from the federal government. The federal government is offering a financial grant to schools that are interested in piloting a Chinese immersion program. The research is very convincing that dual immersion programs have a much higher success rate at achieving high levels of proficiency and fluency than standard language programs. Our school's long history—this is the 15<sup>th</sup> year of offering Chinese to all students—and the tremendous community support for increased proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Chinese convinced us to apply for this competitive grant. Last month, we applied to improve and expand our Mandarin Chinese language program through a combination of two-way and content language immersion during school hours. If approved, we would have all of next year to conduct a feasibility report and hopefully plan and recruit additional families and resources. This is a wonderful and exciting opportunity to expand on our current curriculum and become one of only a handful of Mandarin Chinese immersion public schools in the entire country.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding our application. We expect to hear next month about grant approvals. If approved, we would hold several additional public forums.

*Here are a few additional news and notes:*

- Our students and teachers have safely returned from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Hangzhou and Shanghai, China. What a terrific educational experience! We have posted pictures on our website ([www.cpsd.us/mlk](http://www.cpsd.us/mlk)) and my personal reflection has been posted under "District News" ([www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)). Our students shared their experiences with the middle school in the auditorium last Friday and at our last School Council.
- Teacher Appreciation Week: Please take the time to thank your child/ren's teacher for their hard work this year!

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- Ready for a spectacular show? Students and parents have been preparing for the M.L. King Talent Show on June 11<sup>th</sup>. We will also fire up the grill for hot dogs and veggie burgers for a pre-show dinner in our beautiful school garden!
- Save the date! **Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, is our Museum of Science Night with the Amigos School. The science department, in conjunction with the MOS, will provide free admission to the museum, free 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. Please email Claire Koen at [ckoen@cpsd.us](mailto:ckoen@cpsd.us) or call 617.349.6454 for reservations.
- The M.L. King Music Concert is this Friday at 8:15AM in our auditorium. All families are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

Finally, the math and science MCAS testing begins next week! Please make sure your child receives plenty of rest and encouragement. Our students worked very hard during the English Language Arts MCAS in March and we are excited about this final round of state testing. Spring is here and we are proud of the great strides in learning that continues at 100 Putnam Avenue!

Best Wishes,

Gerald Yung  
Principal