



Dear Parents:

At the sound of the 9:15 bell each morning, I use the intercom to welcome students to school and remind them of their role in making our school community successful. Defining our school as a *community* is important because it reinforces the value of everyone—students, teachers, administrators, and parents—having both a responsibility and a voice. But communities don't just happen. They are built and sustained by all of its members.

On Friday night, we took a risk by changing the format and goal of Fuller Family Night—changing to a Friday night, preparing a meal for families, and parent-only program sessions. I am still overwhelmed by the number of families who attended the event and by the positive energy of the night. The discussion between parents and presenters was rich and constructive. It is from such dialogue, whether about grading practices, which magnet school families can choose, AYP and ABCs of accountability, that build our community. Parents inform our practice with students and it is our responsibility to empower you with tools on how to support our practice. In future Fuller Family Nights, we will offers sessions that are more subject-area specific—math, reading, writing—and we will continue some of the conversations. I would like to personally thank all of the parents who attended on Friday night, and those parents who rolled-up their sleeves to assist with cooking, cleaning, selling Fall Festival tickets, Reflections, etc. The event was a success and I look forward to the next night in January.

The diversity of our community enhances its value and promise. Our students are fortunate to attend a school whose population so closely resembles the global demographic. I had an unusual learning experience last week involving a few of our third grade students. A teacher contacted me about a sketch of a swastika a student drew on his paper after finishing his assignment. We were both shocked, but given the age of the student, I assumed that he did not know the negative history of the symbol. It turned out, that he copied the symbol from a classmate who had visited India over the summer. On her visit there, she made a flag that included the symbol. When I asked the student what the symbol meant, she told me “peace.” I did a quick on-line search and learned that the symbol, drawn with dots, goes back to prehistoric times and was used to communicate “well-being”. I talked with both students about the symbol and reminded them to put the dots on their sketches. The point of this anecdote is that in our role to teach students, we must remain open to learning from them. Our school community is filled with a rich assortment of traditions, values, rituals, and practices that we must collectively strive to understand and respect.

Parent Conferences

Teachers are in the process of starting parent conferences. You should plan for at least 2 conferences during the school year to discuss your child's progress. During the conferences, it is a good idea to discuss both your child's academic status and his/her work habits.

Red Ribbon Week

We celebrate a drug-free life through "Red Ribbon Week". Each day this week, we will commemorate with a unique display. Today we put a cap in drugs by wearing our crazy hats. The remainder of the week is as follows:

Tuesday: *Sock it to drugs* (students may wear their crazy socks)

Wednesday: *Turn your back on drugs* (students may wear their clothes backwards)

Thursday: *Team-up against drugs* (students may wear their favorite jersey)

Friday: *Follow your dreams—don't use drugs* (students may wear their pajamas)

We want to raise students' awareness in the spirit of fun. Please make sure that students are dressed appropriately for Red Ribbon Week.

Candy at School

We understand that many families will celebrate Halloween next week and students will receive many treats on October 31st. Please do not send students to school on November 1st with candy. It's a distraction and it is very difficult for students to remain focused on learning when they are hyped-up on sugar. We will remind the students of the expectation to leave their treats at home. Please support us in our effort to remain focused on teaching and learning.

Dates to Remember

October 26 th	End of 1 st Quarter
October 29 th	Teacher Workday
October 30 th	Second Quarter Electives Begin
November 3 rd	Magnet Fair/Fuller Fall Festival
November 5 th	Report Cards
November 12 th	Holiday—No School