

JANUARY 2018

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! Now that we have changed the calendar, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I sincerely hope that all of our families were able to enjoy the time away from work and school during the winter recess. Despite the hectic pace of the holiday season, it is great to be able to spend some time with family and friends. It is also very nice to have some time to rest and get ready for the second half of the school year.

As much as I enjoy the holiday season, I do look forward to January because there is a collective sense of calmness that returns to our lives and to our classrooms. Believe it or not, the midpoint of the school year is quickly approaching, and the second marking period will be ending later this month. This means that the staff and students will be returning to the business of learning in full force. Not that the learning process ever really stops, but there are times during the year, like January, when things seem to kick back into high gear.

Of course, January also brings more severe winter weather to our area each year. In particular, this is typically the time of year when we see our fair share of snow and with it comes the chance for either a delayed opening or a school closing. If and when those times occur, we will continue to use the Honeywell phone notification system to send out alerts to all families. For this reason, please notify the school office if your contact information changes at any point during the year. Additionally, weather announcements will also be posted on social media using the Monmouth Beach School Twitter and Facebook accounts as well. Those two accounts are linked, so be sure to follow me on Twitter [@MBS_Ettore](#). Speaking of the weather, we will do our best to get the students outside for recess as much as possible during the winter months as long as the temperature and the wind chill are above freezing. For this reason, please encourage your children, especially those in the upper grades, to dress appropriately for school.

As we begin our educational journey into the second half of the school year, please continue to maintain open lines of communication with the teachers. This is the time of year when the curriculum becomes more demanding for many of our students, so it is possible that they will experience more difficulty with some of the academic expectations at their grade level. If and when this happens, it is important for the students to receive appropriate support from home and school. I have found over the years that one of the most difficult challenges facing students (and adults) is time management. As a parent, I realize that many children have many more activities and less down time these days, and in order for them to keep up with everything, they need to learn how to prioritize their time. Part of our task as parents is to help our children make responsible decisions about how to organize and use the time they have each day. I realize this is easier said than done, but it is a real issue that demands attention and likely compromise on some level. In short, students need to discover methods and systems that work for them and then remain consistent with their commitment to managing their time each day.

I am excited for all that lies ahead in the new year, and I hope that 2018 brings everyone good health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent