

APRIL 2017

Greetings to all in the MBS community! Although the weather has not completely warmed up as much as we would like, the staff and students are still very happy that spring has arrived. Of course, that also means spring break is quickly approaching. However, before we reach the break, the staff and students will be working hard to make as much progress as possible in all of their curricular areas. Speaking of hard work and progress, I recently attended a Monmouth County Freeholders meeting along with five other superintendents and our Board Presidents in order to receive a certificate of recognition on behalf of our respective districts. The recognition was a result of our districts' results on the PARCC test from the spring of 2016. To be specific, Monmouth Beach was one of six districts in Monmouth County and one of twenty-five in the entire state to have 100% of our students meet the expectations for performance in the area of English Language Arts. Needless to say, this is an impressive achievement! As the instructional leader of our district, I am incredibly proud of the work being done by **ALL** of our teachers and students each and every day. I believe these test results reflect the quality of the daily lessons being delivered in classrooms along with the consistent level of dedication from our students. Of course, no district can truly experience this type of success without supportive families. Monmouth Beach is fortunate to have all of these factors and more, which make it possible for us to reach such heights. However, the staff and I realize there is always room for improvement so we will continue to identify areas that need more attention, while also enjoying our success. For now, I plan to have the certificate properly framed so we can find a place in the school to have it prominently displayed.

When spring break falls later on the calendar, it can make the month of March seem very long. Fortunately, we have had some fun and exciting events throughout the month, starting with our annual *Read Across America* celebration on Dr. Seuss's birthday where Mrs. Stafford did a great job of organizing fun activities and scheduling a wide variety of guest readers for all of our elementary classes. Knowing that basketball is always a big part of March, the faculty/8th grade game helped everyone get ready for *March Madness* while also raising money for the 8th grade class trip to Boston. The staff and students kept the basketball momentum going the next week with college sweatshirt day to usher in the NCAA tournament followed immediately by the various St. Patrick's Day celebrations where it seemed like the entire school was decked out in festive green attire. If all of those events weren't enough, we ended the month with our annual MBS Talent Show where students in grades 5 - 8 showcased their singing, dancing, and assorted musical talents to the delight of our audience. As usual, the show ended with a surprise number courtesy of Ms. O'Neill, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Mogavero, Ms. Albert, Ms. Poznak, and Ms. Bazley who performed a memorable dance routine while sporting fatheads of all the male staff members. So you see, what makes MBS such a special place is that we are able to achieve academic greatness while also recognizing and celebrating our collective talents and interests outside the classroom.

Looking ahead, once we return from spring break, we will officially be into the fourth and final marking period of the year. The last quarter will include State testing for all students in grades 3 - 8 along with In View testing for grade 2. I encourage you to visit the district's website for more information and to view the testing dates on the calendar link. Of course, testing is only part of what will occur later this spring. The teachers at every grade level will continue to break new ground as they strive to complete their academic programs with a focus on preparing the students for what lies ahead for next year. In order to help your child/children have a strong finish to the year, please maintain open lines of communication with the teachers when needed.

Respectfully,
Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent