

# JANUARY 2017

Greetings and Happy New Year to everyone in the MBS community! I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the time away from school and work during the recent winter break. It is so important for all of us to have the opportunity to spend time with family and friends as we recharge our batteries and get ready for the second half of our school year.

With the holiday season behind us, January brings a sense of calm and a return to a more uninterrupted schedule for learning in the classroom. Of course, that can all change in a blink depending on the weather during this time of year. Just as a reminder, when there is a need to delay the start of a school day or cancel school due to the weather conditions, updates and announcements will be posted on the home page of the MBS website and families will continue to receive emails from school as well as phone notifications via the Honeywell Alert System. Additionally, I will also be posting this same information on my Twitter account (@MBS\_Ettore) and on the Monmouth Beach School Facebook page. If at any time during the school year, your contact information changes, please be sure to notify the office staff so they can update our records and our family database.

During the month of December, public school districts were able to access comparative data from the PARCC test results during the Spring of 2016. Overall, as a district, our students performed very well. Since the goal for PARCC testing is to have as many students as possible “meeting or exceeding expectations” for both ELA and math, I am happy to report that in all of our tested grades (3 - 8), we had 84% of our students achieve this goal in English Language Arts (ELA) and 68% of our students achieve the same goal in mathematics. Our district received one particular note of distinction as we were one of only six districts in the county and one of just twenty-five districts in the entire state that had 100% of the students in grades 3 - 5 meet or exceed expectations in the ELA section of the test! While we are extremely proud of our accomplishments and progress so far, the test data also reveals where we have room for improvement. Fortunately, the MBS faculty has already done an item analysis on the results at each grade level to

identify the areas in need of growth and they have been designing lessons since September to meet the needs of our students.

As we move towards the midpoint of the school year, I feel compelled to remind everyone to maintain the lines of communication that were established back in September. Information sharing between home and school is critical for student success, so please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers with questions or concerns as needed. Of course the same needs to be true in reverse, so the teachers will do the same as needed from their end.

From everyone at MBS, I want to wish all of our families a new year filled with good health and happiness.

Respectfully,

*Michael E. Ettore*  
Principal/Superintendent