

DECEMBER 2016

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! As most of us know, the time between Halloween and Winter Break is filled with plenty of excitement about the holiday season and all of the special events that take place at home and at school. This year has been even busier and more exciting than usual because of the school play being moved to the fall. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire cast and crew of *Elf, Jr.* on doing such a great job in their performances! Under the direction of Mrs. Vaccarelli and Ms. Steeber, the students were able to bring these beloved movie characters to life in a fun and entertaining manner. A special note of thanks goes out to Mr. Zweemer for lending his time and talent to the light and sound portions of the production. As always, the play was a collaborative effort, and it was clear that everyone involved worked hard and had a great time!

Among the other special events that takes place each year around this time is our Winter Concert. I have to admit that this is one of my favorite programs of the year because the entire school is involved. Few things can put you in the holiday spirit like watching Preschool and Kindergarten students singing, and there is always some type of fun surprise from the 8th grade students who traditionally close out the show. So, please be sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, December 15, at 7 p.m. in the MBS gym, and hopefully we will see everyone there to help celebrate the Christmas and Hannukah seasons.

Academically speaking, we are now into the second marking period in all grade levels, so it is possible and even expected that the teachers and students will be breaking more new ground as they continue to work through their programs. As a result, students may experience some additional or even new difficulties with their school work. If this happens, please do not panic! Struggle is an important part of the learning process because it can help develop the quality of persistence in our students. In other words, when children have trouble finding an immediate solution to a problem, it is important for us to encourage them to reread the problem and try again. Knowing that we live in a world where students are accustomed to having instant responses and information at their fingertips, the concepts of persistence and patience can be a real challenge for them. As adults, we need to

reassure our children and remind them that we believe in their abilities in order to strengthen their self-confidence. As always, I encourage you to communicate more serious concerns to your child's teacher and ask for their feedback so you are able to remain consistent with your expectations and goals.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent