

NOVEMBER 2016

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! We are into the time of year when the leaves and the temperatures are starting to fall on a steady basis. The month of November also signals the completion of the first quarter of our school year. It seems like just yesterday that the students were arriving for the first day in September, but here we are more than two months into the year. In addition to the first marking period coming to an end, parents will have an opportunity to meet with teachers during the upcoming conference days to discuss the progress that has been made to date. Regardless of the actual report card grades, it is important for parents and teachers to meet and exchange information related to each individual student because the report card never tells the whole story of how a child is doing in class. During the actual conference, it is recommended that parents come with specific questions about their child in terms of academic needs, social behaviors or anything else that is believed to be a critical factor in order to use the time efficiently. I ask that everyone be mindful and respectful of each other's time during conferences, so if you find that more time is needed to continue the discussion with any teacher, kindly schedule a separate appointment for the two of you to meet for that purpose.

The month of November is also associated with the start of the holiday season. Among the many significant dates that are on the horizon is Veterans Day. Although school will be closed this year on November 11 due to the NJEA Convention, MBS will still hold our annual Veterans Day Program. The event this year will be on Wednesday, November 9, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the gym. As in the past, the program will include remarks from our Mayor as well as a keynote speaker from the service. Additionally, we will have our middle school essay winners read their winning compositions for our audience. Of course, the most important part of the event is the opportunity to honor the special guests that attend from our town who are actual veterans dating back to WWII. From an educational perspective, it has always been very meaningful for our students to be able to see the veterans in person so they can hopefully develop

a sense of appreciation for who these brave people are and what they did for our country.

As I always say, once Halloween arrives, there are non-stop series of special events all the way through winter break, and this year is no different. The week following Veterans Day will include our school performances of *Elf, Jr.* on November 18 & 19. The week after that will start with parent-teacher conferences and end with the Thanksgiving holiday. Of course December will bring Hanukkah and eventually Christmas, but the date I ask that you circle on your calendar is December 15, because that is the date of our annual Winter Concert. Needless to say, there is much to look forward to at our school in the coming weeks!

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent