



February 4, 2010

### **Quarter 2 Report Cards**

You should have received your child's Quarter 2 Report Card earlier this week. The mailing of two progress reports before this report card should have provided parents with a good sense of your child's academic achievement. If your child is not meeting your academic expectations, you should contact your child's teachers to develop a plan for improvement.

### **Homework Clubs and Extra Help**

All students at McCourt are provided with many opportunities of academic support through our academic enrichment periods, voluntary or required team homework clubs, or required 6:45 a.m. homework club. If your child is not meeting with academic success, please contact his/her teachers or guidance counselors to inquire about the times and days that extra support is available.

### **I-Parent**

I-Parent is another great way for parents to keep track of their child's academic progress. This program has been available to all parents since the beginning of the school year. Nearly half of our McCourt families are currently signed up and using this system. If you are interested in signing into I-Parent, please contact your child's guidance counselor by email: [lisa.albert@cumberlandschools.org](mailto:lisa.albert@cumberlandschools.org) or [patricia.dias@cumberlandschools.org](mailto:patricia.dias@cumberlandschools.org)

### **Extracurricular Eligibility**

We believe that a student's primary goal at school is to be academically successful. Please remember that students who are not meeting expectations and/or, failing two or more classes, are not eligible for extracurricular activities. This includes attendance at school dances, sporting events, and other after school programs. Please also be aware that this policy does not include staying with teachers for extra help. Eligibility for extracurricular activities is determined by school-wide progress reports or report card periods. Please see the Student Handbook, page 49, for more information.

### **NECAP Scores**

As you know, all McCourt students participated in the NECAP assessments this past October. The results are in! You will be receiving your child's individual proficiency information within the next few weeks. If you would like to view the school's results, you can surf over to the Rhode Island Department of Education website or follow this link: <http://reporting.measuredprogress.org/NECAPpublicRI/>

### **Students Late to School**

In the past months we have noticed a trend that more and more students are arriving to school late. As you are aware tardiness can and will seriously hinder your child's academic progress and tardiness often results in missed work which can not be made up. Students are expected to be ready for school and seated in their homerooms by 7:55am. After 7:55am students are considered tardy and are required to report to the front office to sign in. Three or more unexcused tardies will result in office consequences. We ask that you take the time to review the attendance policy with your child on pages 16 – 18 of the 2009 - 2010 McCourt Middle School Student Handbook. Please work with us on this matter and let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you.

### **Quebec City, Canada**

Recently, we had the good fortune of taking twenty-seven McCourt grade 8 students and three chaperones to Quebec City, Canada. This is the fourth year the McCourt Middle School has participated in this excellent educational experience. Students learned about the local history and culture of Quebec. I was especially proud when our tour guides commented that our students were the best middle school group they had ever led. We hope to offer this great opportunity to our grade 8 students again next year.

### **McCourt Reading Challenge**

Our Reading Challenge continues! The faculty and staff at McCourt have challenged our students and families to collectively read 250,000 pages of self-selected reading between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently we have read 198,000 pages! We are close to achieving our goal. Please continue to encourage your child to read outside of school. The purpose of this challenge is to encourage students to engage in literacy activities that are not required. We have many books available in our library or in your child's classes. When your child has completed a book, they must complete a summary sheet to enter the text into the contest.

### **Spring Sports**

In the spring, McCourt students may try out for baseball or softball. If your child is interested in trying out, they **must** have athletic forms on file with the school. These forms include an up-to-date physical (less than a year old), parent permission to participate (for the sport they are interested in), and an assumption of risk (one time during middle school). These forms are available in the main office or on our website ([www.mccourtmiddle.com](http://www.mccourtmiddle.com)). No students will be allowed to participate in tryouts unless all forms are submitted and up to date before try-outs.

### **Upcoming Dates**

Feb. 8	PTO Meeting in McCourt Library at 7:00
Feb. 10	Cumberland Public Schools Spelling Bee at North Cumberland MS (4:00 p.m.)
Feb. 15-19	No School – February Vacation
Feb. 25	Parent Coffee Hour (8:15 a.m. in Library)
Feb. 26	School Dance (6:30-9:00 P.M.) - Permission Form Attached

**[PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW FOR THE WINTER DANCE PERMISSION SLIP:](#)**

**[Winter Dance Permission Slip.pdf](#)**