



January 8, 2010

Happy New Year! I hope that you enjoyed the holidays with friends and family.

Progress Reports

Progress reports have been mailed.* This report provides families with an indicator of a child's current academic performance. I encourage you to review the information with your child. If you have any questions about the progress report you are asked to address them to the teacher directly. Please also remember that we are quickly approaching the end of the second quarter. The second quarter ends on Friday, January 29th. Please also remember that a student must maintain good academic standing to be eligible for extracurricular activities.

*Please note that if you signed up for the Going Green Initiative, you will not receive a mailed copy of your child's progress report. You should log in to I-Parent to check their current progress

School Report Card

Each year the Rhode Island Department of Education assesses schools to determine if they have met Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). We are pleased to report that the 2009 McCourt Middle School Report Card indicates that we have met AYP. In essence this means that based on data (NECAP scores, attendance rates) McCourt students continued to show improvement over the previous year. If you would like to view McCourt's 2009 Report card you can either view it by following the link:

<http://www.eride.ri.gov/reportcard/09/ReportCard.aspx?schCode=08115&schType=2> or you can pick up a copy of the 2009 McCourt Middle School Report Card in the main office at McCourt.

Anti-Bullying

At McCourt Middle School we take bullying seriously. At the middle school level bullying can take many forms. These forms can include harassment, physical harm, exclusion, taunting, and teasing. We do our best to prevent bullying from occurring. However, due to the nature of middle school students bullying does and can occur. We ask that you review with your child our Anti-Bullying Policy on page 28 in the McCourt Middle School Student/Parent Handbook. We also ask that you have ongoing dialogue with your child about bullying that may be taking place at school. Please do not hesitate to call if you suspect your child is a victim of bullying and/or you are aware of any type of bullying that is taking place. No question or concern is too small and we will do our absolute best to investigate and stop the bullying from occurring. We would like to thank you in advance for partnering with McCourt to stop bullying from occurring.

McCourt Reading Challenge

Our Reading Challenge continues! We are challenging the entire McCourt community (students, parents, faculty and staff) to collectively read 250,000 pages of self-selected reading between November 1st and March 1st. Currently we have read approximately 101,000 pages and have a long way to go to meet our goal. Our overall goal is to encourage students to engage in literacy activities that are not required, and to see adults modeling this behavior. We have many books available in our library or in your child's classes.

Student Drop-off

If you drop off your child, you are undoubtedly aware of how hectic mornings can be here at McCourt. It is important that all parents dropping off students understand and adhere to our procedure so that we may ensure the safety of our students.

- Parents dropping off enter via Highland Avenue and stay to the right.
- Have your child exit the vehicle toward the front right of the building where the sign indicates the student drop off area.
- Drivers should maintain one lane of traffic throughout the drop off process.
- When you have dropped off your child, you may proceed to the right around the building and exit onto Hope Street.
- Unless a parent has a meeting they should not enter the parking lot.

Student Absence

Please be sure to call McCourt and leave a message on our student absence line (725-2092) if your child is out of school for any reason. We have implemented a new computer calling solution that will contact you if your child is out of school and you have not called. If you have any questions about this process, please call and speak with Mrs. Martin or Mrs. Lussier.

I-Parent

As you know I-Parent is up and running and available. We have found it is a useful tool for parents to track students' progress. The system allows you to look at your child's grades by logging into a secure website. Nearly half of our McCourt families are currently 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 or
patricia.dias@cumberlandschools.org

Upcoming Dates

January 15-18 Grade 8 Quebec City, Canada Trip
January 18 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 29 End of Quarter 2 (Report Cards will be mailed the following week)
Feb. 15-19 No School – February Vacation