



Progress Reports and Student Summaries of NECAP results were mailed last week.

March 3, 2010

Quarter 3 Progress Report

Included is your child's first progress report of the third quarter. This report is provided to give you a sense of the current level of your child's performance. I encourage you to review this information with your child and discuss their current performance. If you have any concerns that you would like to discuss, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher or guidance counselor.

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.

NECAP Scores

In addition to your child's progress report, you are also receiving your child's NECAP Score report. As you are aware your child participated in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) in the Fall of 2009. The NECAP tests are administered

to students as part of Rhode Island's statewide assessment program. They are designed to measure student performance on Grade Level Expectations (GLE's). NECAP tests are primarily used for school improvement accountability.

The enclosed report provides you with information about the content and skills that your child learned through the end of last year in reading and mathematics.

Overall McCourt saw improvement in student performance. We were pleased to see significant improvement in some areas. In the upcoming weeks we will host a parent night to discuss McCourt's achievement on the latest NECAP, and how we believe we can continue to improve student achievement.

NECAP Assessment in Science

As you may be aware, grade 8 students will be participating in the Science NECAP assessment in May. This assessment, like all NECAP tests, assesses students' achievement of the grade-level expectations. In addition to assessing your child's achievement in the area of science, this upcoming assessment will also provide us with important information about the strengths and weaknesses of our science program. This information is used to further improve our curriculum and instructional practices.

McCourt Reading Challenge

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! You may be aware that the McCourt Reading Challenge concluded this week. We exceeded our goal by reading 333,525 pages between November 1st and March 1st. The purpose of this challenge was to encourage our students, and school community, to read self-selected books. We appreciate all of the community support we saw during the challenge.

Electronics/Cell Phones, iPods, etc.

Please be sure your child understands that cell phones and other electronic devices should be kept in their lockers at all times throughout the school day. Due to the fact that they are a distraction to the learning process, the policy is to "keep them away, or we take them away!" If a teacher or staff member sees a student with an electronic device during the school day, they

will take it away and turn it into the assistant principal. Once it is turned in, a parent must pick it up. Students will also receive a disciplinary consequence for using an electronic device. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Tardiness

We would like to thank all parents and students for the significant improvement on arriving to school on time. This ensures that the learning process can begin on time and without interruption.

Spring Sports

Tryouts for Baseball and Softball will begin during the week of March 8th. In order to participate, students must be academically eligible, and have on file an updated physical (less than one year old), an assumption of risk form, and a permission to participate form. These forms are available for pick-up in the main office or can be downloaded off of our website (www.mccourtmiddle.com). A student with incomplete forms will not be allowed to participate.

Biking to School

As the nice weather approaches, we wanted to remind our community that students are encouraged to bike to school. If your child chooses to bike to school, please be sure that they understand the following safety procedures, students must: wear a helmet, lock up their bike, and walk their bike on school grounds. These rules are in place to ensure the safety of our students. Any student violating these rules will no longer be allowed to bring their bike to school.

Grade 8 Promotional Exercises

We have received many calls asking for the date of the grade 8 Promotional Exercises. The date for promotional exercises will not be selected until we know the date of the last day of school. Since this is New England, and the weather is unpredictable, we hope to provide families with a date by the middle of April. Once a date has been selected we will send out a listserve message and include it in our newsletters. Thank you for your understanding.

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 or patricia.dias@cumberlandschools.org

Upcoming Dates

March 18	2 nd Progress Report for Quarter 3
March 26	School Dance 6:30-9:00 p.m.
March 31	Parent Coffee Hour at 8:00 a.m. in the McCourt Library
April 2	No School – Good Friday
April 9	End of Quarter 3
April 16	Quarter 3 Report Cards mailed home