



March 18, 2010

Quarter 3 Progress Report

Progress reports will be mailed on Friday, March 19. 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.

If you have signed up for the McCourt "Going Green" initiative, you should log on to I-Parent to review your child's Progress Report grades.

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.

Student Council Conducts Spirit Week

During the week of March 22-March 26, McCourt Middle School will conduct Spirit Week. Each day has a theme that was decided upon by our Student Council. Below are the themes selected for each day:

Monday	Twin/Triplet Day
Tuesday	Sports Day – No Hats Please!
Wednesday	Hats for Haiti
Thursday	Tie Dye/Hippie Day
Friday	Flannel Day

We will cap off the week with a school dance.

McCourt Reading Challenge

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! You may be aware that the McCourt Reading Challenge concluded March 1st. 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.

Walking to and from school

Springtime is just around the corner and as the weather gets warmer students will want to walk to and from school. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few of our recommendations regarding walking to and from school. Students are expected to be in their homeroom seats at 7:55am. If students arrive after 7:55am they are to report to the office and sign in as being tardy. At 2:15pm walkers are dismissed. If

students are not staying after school for homework help, detention, or sports we encourage students to walk straight home. Some students elect to cut through the woods behind the school to get home. We encourage students not to walk through the woods as this area is difficult to monitor. We encourage all students to walk on the sidewalks and walk with a buddy. There is a crossing guard at the intersection of Highland Avenue and High Street that should be utilized to cross High Street. Walking to school can be an enjoyable experience. Please help us by reminding your child of these recommendations. If you have any questions you may contact Dr. Anderson at 725-2092.

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.

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.

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

More than half of our families take advantage of this valuable resource! This program has been available to all parents since the beginning of the school year and provides parents with electronic access to their child's academic performance. 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

We are putting together a survey that will provide I-Parent users with the opportunity to provide us with feedback and recommendations to improve this system.

Upcoming Dates

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
April 28	All Band Night
May 12	RI Red Cross Blood Drive