

Dear Parents,

Reflections on Martin Luther King Jr.

As I sit at home relishing a day out of the office, my mind wanders to Martin Luther King Jr. How would MLK, one of my favorite heroes, feel about the current presidential elections?

In just over 40 years since his death, we have come a long way. On the Republican side, we see a religious war underlying a political battle: the right of a Mormon to run for president verses the power of the numerous Baptists. On the Democratic side, we see a woman contender versus a black man—even though he is of mixed race-- as front-runners in this election.

It is a year to stand tall as Americans, even if our system still has a few flaws. MLK, had he not been assassinated, would have strong opinions on who should be president. Beyond that, Dr. King might sit on his porch, rock in his chair, and smile as this campaign battle wages on. Did we ever think that Americans would see a woman and a black man as front-runners for the office of President of the United States? While many of us take umbrage when we see that bias still exists, we take solace in the fact that candidates are still winning primaries regardless of their religion, race or sex.

Today I salute Dr. King's work and recognize that his efforts have led to this day of political opportunity; his dreams have come closer to becoming realities in this fine country of ours. Regardless of how you and I may vote on February 5, we do so knowing that we have come closer to realizing America's pledge to have "liberty and justice for all."

Budget

Carlisle continues to have an outstanding school system where students flourish under the direction of our fine staff. It is a pleasure to see students engaged in meaningful learning experiences, and I leave classrooms with a smile knowing that our students are receiving an excellent education in a caring community.

Thank you for attending or viewing the FY09 Budget Presentation. Over the next several weeks, the School Committee and I will meet with the Finance Committee and Selectmen to discuss our proposed budget. You may watch the PowerPoint presentation from last week's School Committee meeting on our website or cable TV; the slideshow includes a level service budget along with potential budget cuts of \$605,112. Please follow these budget discussions carefully as the results of any budget cuts will impact our school.

Building

The Massachusetts School Building Authority has invited us to meet on January 30th. At this time, we will find out the next steps for moving forward in a process that may lead to reimbursement for a new building. The Robbins, Corey and Wilkins are so overcrowded that the auditor from the DOE stated that she would cite us for inadequate educational spaces in her formal report. The Spalding Building has outlived its useful lifespan, and these building issues need to be addressed. Lee Storrs from the Building Committee will make a presentation to the CSA on February 28th at the Clark Room at the Town Hall at 11:00 AM. The presentation will

be on cable TV as well so that the community may understand the information, our needs and the process.

As always, we appreciate the commitment of our parents and community. Please stay involved as we move forward in the budget process and building project.

Sincerely,
Marie Doyle