

September 13, 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! The campus is once again full of life with students bustling to classes, focusing in class and playing with friends on the plaza. Parents have reunited at parent coffees where they met our wonderful teachers and saw newly decorated classrooms. Various teachers have been here throughout the summer writing curriculum and preparing classes. Our administrative, clerical, and custodial staffs deserve accolades for working diligently to guarantee a smooth opening.

We've had an excellent start to the school year. The staff, relaxed and ready for school to open, returned on August 29th. Sarah Ward provided an insightful presentation to the staff, and our teachers are looking forward to having her return to work on specific strategies to help students maximize their learning. Ms. Ward is an expert on executive functioning, which is defined as "the brain's ability to absorb information, interpret this information, and make decisions based upon this information."

Everyone should know that Principal Patrice Hurley honored Mrs. Lynn Walker and Mrs. Daryl Greenwood as School Sages as they enter their last year of teaching prior to retirement. Patrice provided crowns and wands to our two wise sages along with the promise that all their commands will be answered! If you need advice, we recommend that you see Lynn or Daryl...

The Strategic Planning Committee worked through last spring to draft a new vision statement, mission statement and core values. Teachers assembled on August 29th to review and provide their feedback. The School Council, School Committee, Carlisle School Association, and Carlisle Education Foundation will be asked to offer their input before the Strategic Planning Committee finalizes the document. Here are the current drafts:

**Vision:** To inspire intellectual and moral excellence

**Mission:** To educate students to their fullest potential through high expectations and rigorous standards in a collaborative and caring community in which each student is known, understood, and valued

**Core Values:** Academic Excellence      Creativity      Respect      Responsibility

A fuller expression of these values would include . . .

We always look beyond what we now know.

We constantly work to know more.

We are respectful toward all in our community.

We use what we know to help others.

We take responsibility for ourselves and for others.

The English Language Arts Review Team will begin to meet this year with a focus on writing. If any parents are interested in volunteering, please email me as we have a few open slots. The Math Review Team will enter our second phase as we examine our curriculum based on information gathered through the surveys of staff and parents completed last year.

On a systemic level, the School Committee is hiring John Littleford, a renowned consultant, to meet with the CTA (Carlisle Teachers' Association), the administration, the School Committee and the Superintendent. The following is a press release from Mr. Littleford:

*The School Committee, with the endorsement of the CTA (Carlisle Teachers' Association), the Carlisle School District Administration and the Superintendent, has hired John Littleford, Senior Partner of Littleford & Associates, to work with all parties separately and together to address the challenges that the District faces currently. After a day of preliminary meetings with all constituent groups, Mr. Littleford identified potential areas for improvement and stated that all parties share equal responsibility for addressing the challenges that the Districts faces. He foresees his future work as an opportunity for all stakeholders to learn and grow in their respective roles as leaders and representatives in the Carlisle School District.*

*Littleford & Associates provides management consulting services to schools and nonprofit organizations needing strategic assistance in the following areas: board governance; head compensation; teacher compensation and evaluation; strategic and financial planning; safe harbors compliance (for US based schools); school climate and culture; managing change and transitions; team building; marketing and fund raising; and executive searches.*

We look forward to working with John.

Best wishes for a wonderful academic year!

Sincerely,  
*Marie Doyle*