

November 2, 2006

Dear Parents,

As leaves fall from trees and children begin to wear heavier coats to school, we enter November: it has been a busy fall. The new administrative team continues to learn about the Carlisle culture while responding to the plethora of responsibilities that run the gamut from school safety to analyzing the MCAS data. I would like to thank Patrice, Paul, Karen, Heidi, David, and Claire for their teamwork and attention to every detail as our new team works with staff and parents to build a shared vision for Carlisle Public Schools.

All administrators agree that the Halloween parade is extraordinary, a true gem of the Carlisle culture; it brings our community together as we find enjoyment in this simple childhood tradition. This year's parade, led by Ailey Butler, brought out astronauts, monsters, beauty queens and goblins. It showcased a marvelous mix of creative thinking, reflected in the unique costumes designed by our students and staff.

The Math Review Team, now complete with the addition of parent representatives, has assembled to begin our important work of gathering data to assess our program. Expertise is needed in the area of writing a survey, electronically distributing the survey, and disaggregating the data. Should you be able to assist in one or more of these areas, please email the math review team at mathreview@carlisle.mec.edu.

MCAS scores from last spring have arrived; individual student scores were sent out to the parents of all our students who participated in the tests (Grades 3-8). Our eighth grade scores reflect the progress made by our students over their nine years with us, and we are pleased with the long-term results. The principals and coordinators have disaggregated the data to identify areas of strengths as well as target areas for improvement; this information will be shared with the staff so that salient points may be reflected in our ongoing instruction. For example, the open response question, one type of MCAS question, is an area in which Carlisle students could perform better. The administrators and coordinators will provide staff development in this area, guiding teachers so they may embed this type of question into our curriculum; teachers will help students understand how to write answers to these short, reflective questions as well as know how their answers will be scored. In addition, the benchmarks are now in place, and these will help teachers correlate curriculum with the test, ensuring that students are studying the same material they are tested on annually. The curriculum review cycles will assist us in gathering data from several areas, beyond just the MCAS, to assess our work and guide us as we strive to differentiate instruction and meet the needs of all of our learners, from special needs to the advanced learner. As reflective practitioners, Carlisle's dedicated staff will work diligently to assess our progress using internal and external assessments that lead us to help each child achieve to the highest potential.

My next Superintendent's Coffee will be on Thursday, November 16th at 9:00 AM in the cafeteria. The topic is school safety, so please forward your questions to Dale Ryder or

me in advance so we may provide you with accurate information. I'll look forward to seeing many of you at school events.

Sincerely,

Marie Doyle

Marie H. Doyle, Superintendent