

March 6, 2008

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Joyce Mehaffey as the new middle school principal. Please see the press release in the "School Events/Information" section to read more about Dr. Mehaffey.

Money is on our minds at CPS as we continue to discuss budget needs for next year and hear about the suffering of our friends in our Africa.

On the local level, we are working to come forward with a budget supported by all Town boards. Meetings continue with the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Selectmen to determine a budget agreeable to all parties. Please do follow these discussions by attending meetings, watching the cable broadcast, or reading the notes.

The Building Committee is working on a timeline for the Spalding project. We will bring this forward the plan to the Selectmen in March for their approval as we continue to work with the MSBA to secure funding.

Mr. Darasz has received word from our friends in Kenya that the recent riots have impacted our sponsored students, their families and their school. One of our sponsored students, Kenneth Ngetich, lost his father when he was shot by police along Eldoret-Nairobi road while he was walking to a shopping center. Many residents were hit hard by the violence and have left the area. Many of the parents of the African students have lost businesses, as they are farmers who sell their produce to the local people; others have had their fields destroyed. Our African friends are struggling to survive, and local schools are closing due to severely limited resources. Peter Darasz and his class will be collecting monetary donations to send over immediately to help out. If you would like to join Mr. D and me in making a donation, please make the check payable to the KIMbia Foundation and deliver the check to the office or Mr. D's classroom. Should you wish to learn more, please access the website <http://kimbia.net/>.

Reading the news from Kenya reminds me of how fortunate we are to live in a country and community where we are safe and protected. While we struggle to bring forth an approved budget, it gives us perspective as to what is most important: our family, friends and safety. It is difficult to believe that every child in the world still does not have the right to attend school.

Sincerely,
Marie Doyle