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Principal’s Message

After the snowfall we experienced in October, I was apprehensive of what would become of our winter season this year. Thankfully, the months of December and January have brought with them milder temperatures and very little snow. It is my hope that this trend will continue and that no additional school cancellations will be occurring this year. With any luck, Punxsutawney Phil will emerge from Gobbler’s Notch at 7:20 AM on February 2, 2012 and make a prediction for an early spring this year.

I would like to note a few very important items in this month’s newsletter. At the January 25th Enfield Board of Education meeting, it was decided to that we will not change our school calendar as a result of the lost days due to Storm Alfred. The April vacation will remain intact, and we will follow prior practice by adding the six lost school days to the end of the school year. As a result, our last day of school this year will change from June 14th to June 22nd. Any additional snow days will be added to the end of the school year as well. Unless we exceed the days left in the month in June, our April vacation will remain intact. The Board of Education also adopted our new Safe School Climate and Bully Prevention and Intervention policy at their meeting. Policy 5131.9 outlines the district’s plans for creating a safe and welcoming school climate in each of our schools; as well as, sets forth clear guidelines for addressing acts of bullying that occur on and off school grounds. I have attached a copy of our new policy to this newsletter. At our March PTO meeting there will be a presentation by our Safe School Climate Committee on our new policy and its implications. I encourage parents to attend this meeting.

Prior to concluding this message, I would like to provide you with some very important information. Over the past several months, staff members of the Enfield Public Schools have been working in close partnership with students, parents, politicians, and Town of Enfield departments and agencies to address the unfortunate teen suicides that have shaken our community. Under the guidance of Dr. Michael Schulitz, a leading child psychologist with the Department of Children and Families, our entire community has come together to develop a plan of action that we hope will prevent any further tragedies from happening. Within John F. Kennedy Middle School, a student committee has been created to assist school leadership in addressing the social and emotional needs of our student population. I am so very pleased to announce the names of the eleven praiseworthy student representatives that will be meeting monthly to initiate programming in what promises to be a defining period in the climate and culture of John F. Kennedy Middle School. Please join me in support of the following students, the entire student population that they represent, and the task that lies before them.

Jabari Smith (Grade 8) Alex Byron (Grade 8) Wayne Joseph (Grade 8) Avery Ketchale (Grade 8) Michael Kohler (Grade 7) Taylor Miner (Grade 7) Morgan Remington (Grade 7) Jocelyn James (Grade 6) Nate Shanahan (Grade 6) Renee Wilson (Grade 6)

It was amazing listening to these students articulate their perceptions of our school and community, peer relationships, families, and their hopes and dreams for the future. There will be many opportunities for student and parent involvement in the weeks and months ahead, and we are hopeful we can count on your support as we address some of the greatest challenges that our entire community is facing today.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Van Tasel

Upcoming Events:
Early Dismissal with Lunch:
February 14
PTO Meeting:
February 9 @ 7:00 PM
From the Nurse’s Desk...

A student is ALWAYS sent home from school for the following conditions:

- Temperature of 100 or higher
- Active vomiting or diarrhea
- Suspected contagious diseases: conjunctivitis (pink eye), chicken pox, strep throat, scarlet fever, head lice, impetigo, scabies, ring worm, undiagnosed suspicious rash

If a student complains of a headache or stomach ache (with none of the above), they will rest for 15 minutes and return to class. If a student complains of headache or stomachache because he/she did not eat breakfast, a cereal bar will be offered. If a student returns several times or requests the phone, a call will be made to a parent or guardian.

If a student does not feel well enough to participate in Physical Education (with none of the above), the nurse can sign the student out ONCE. The student will make up the class after school when feeling better. If the student does not participate in other PE classes, a doctor’s note is required for a medical excuse. If a student has a physical injury that prevents participation in PE, the doctor’s note serves as a medical excuse and does not affect the grade.

If a student has an injury or disability that impacts the school day (i.e. cast, crutches, brace or limited walking or carrying etc.) a doctor’s note is required with specific limitations and length of disabilities.

If a student has an injury, he/she is to report to the nurses office on the first day back. The nurse’s issue the passes, set up the buddy, etc. All injured students must be on record in the nurses’ office in case of emergency.

As always, in middle school, the above guidelines are subject to change with every situation.
End of Semester & Report Cards

Our grades closed on January 24, 2012. Students will begin following their second semester schedules on Monday, January 30, 2012. Import to note, report cards will be sent home with students on February 3rd. We will not be mailing report cards this semester. Please contact your child’s teacher with any questions regarding report card grades.

Safety Announcement

The school parking lot and its traffic patterns, can be a distracting and very dangerous location for our middle school students.

1. Students should be dropped off and picked up in the proper “pick-up/drop off” locations.
2. Please be very cautious when dropping off or picking up students.
3. Please follow the arrows in the parking lot and proceed with caution.
4. Cars should be entering the John F. Kennedy campus and follow the “one way” traffic signs.
5. No cars should pass busses that have their stop signs and lights flashing.

Please use EXTREME CAUTION when passing through our parking lots.

JFK Music Assemblies

Hartford Symphony Ensembles have been coming to JFK Middle this year. Our final performance will be the Hartford Symphony Woodwind Quartet on February 23, 2012.

PTO News

Next meeting:

February 9, 2012
School Library
7:00 PM

Behavior Expectations

John F. Kennedy Middle School is a community of learners. All communities need rules and guidelines for appropriate behavior. Our core expectations at JFK are that students will:

- Follow staff directions the first time they are given.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Use appropriate language at all times. No swearing, shouting, taunting, or teasing.

Specific behavior expectations in classrooms, in the lab, and in the auditorium, for example, may be more detailed. This is by no means an exhaustive list. These core expectations provide the foundation for all rules and procedures at JFK Middle.

Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Safe.

Don’t forget to check out the JFK website.

www.enfieldschools.org
Choose our schools → Choose JFK Middle School

All school newsletters will be posted on our school website!