

MAIN STREET SCHOOL
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Steve Adler
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Beth Cadorette
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Special Education
Administrator

November 6, 2017

Dear MSS Families,



November 9th has been set aside for parent/teacher conferences and we are excited to have the chance to talk with you about your child's progress in school and to learn more from you about your child. Our goal as a school is for every family to have a conference with their child's classroom teacher.

Diversity Education-

One of the stories my grandmother told often, especially when she was in her nineties, was her memory of escaping Nazi Germany in 1938. She would describe how she almost missed getting on a boat in the port of Le Havre, France with my father and uncle and the terror that caused her. My Jewish family background has always made me deeply conscious of the importance of promoting the acceptance and celebration of diversity. As I view recent events in our country, I find myself reflecting again on how we can best achieve our mission of ensuring that our school environment is a safe and caring learning environment that fosters respect for others.



There are several things that we do at MSS to create a caring and respectful school environment. The Open Circle program provides a foundation for students' social and emotional learning at our school. Each year Open Circle activities strengthen classroom communities by having students learn about things that they have in common and by recognizing and supporting differences. It also engages students in activities that promote empathy and caring for others.

In addition to the Open Circle program, we have a number of other curriculum components that invite and help children celebrate differences nationally and globally. In first grade, all of our students learn about countries around the world by participating in Cruising the Continents. Students visit each first-grade classroom where they learn about the culture and geography of one country and continent. In second grade, there is a unit that teaches about celebrations around the world.

Literature can be a powerful way for children to learn about the lives and experiences of other children and their families. Through the year, in both classrooms and at school assemblies, we read aloud a variety of books that celebrate diversity. A couple of examples of books we have shared include Whoever You Are by Mem Fox at our holiday assembly in December, and the book Martin's Big Words at our February assembly.

Lastly, we welcome opportunities for visitors from different cultural, ethnic, and religious back grounds to share their experiences at our school. We have been fortunate to have

students from Phillips Exeter Academy, who come from countries all over the world, work with our students.

We are aware that it is important that we continue to look at how we teach about diversity and make sure we are achieving our goal of making MSS a safe and respectful environment for all. I am working with the other administrators of SAU 16 to look more deeply into this topic.

PTO- The next PTO meeting is this **Wednesday, November 8th** at 3:15 pm in the Main Street School library. Child care will be provided and we encourage all of our parents and guardians to attend. MSS continues to be fortunate to be buoyed by an active and supportive PTO.



After School Enrichment Instructors- The first session of After School Enrichment has come to a successful conclusion and I thank all of the instructors who provided a variety of enrichment activities for the children. Our next session for After School Enrichment will be taking place near the end of January. If you have a hobby, activity, or interest that children would enjoy learning, we welcome your application to be an instructor. A modest payment will be provided. Please let Cheri Porter in the front office know of your interest. Cheri can be reached at 775-8945.



Sincerely,
Steve Adler

Our mission:

To provide a positive, safe learning environment that fosters a life-long love of learning for all with respect for individual strengths and needs.