

December, 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving and your time was well spent with friends and family. It may seem hard to believe, but we are already well into our second marking period of the school year and the winter break will be here before we know it. Even though for many of us it feels as though the days are accelerating, we should take time to slow down and stay focused on the things that are most important in our lives—our children.

Just before Thanksgiving weekend, we held our fall conferences. During our conference sessions, we had more than half of our parents attend at least one conference. I was very impressed by not only the number of parents who attended, but in the genuine interest and concern you expressed toward the success of your children. This speaks to the investment that you have made in your children's education, both in your time and energy. Your presence here sends a powerful message that you are committed to doing all you can to help your children be successful. I also want to thank you for the efforts you are making at home with the projects, homework, and studying necessary for your children to reach their potential. It truly is a team effort and you are an integral part of our team.

The month of December will seem to move quickly, with each day a little faster than the one before. In this environment, it is very important that we maintain the routines and high expectations that have been set through the year. Setting aside time to study and complete homework will still be expected of each student. Your vigilance and assistance with this may be more difficult with the additional distractions, but is more important than ever.

If you need to speak with a team leader, guidance counselor, administrator, or other support personnel please don't hesitate to email or call. If you notice that your child needs more help than usual in getting work done, let us know and we will try to help. This is a very important time during our school year and will go a long way in helping our teachers determine which classes are most appropriate for your children when course selections are made near the end of January.

During the month of December there will be a variety of programs to showcase the talents of our students. The performing arts team will be presenting the winter festivals. The choral and strings groups will perform on the 15th, and the instrumental groups will perform on the 16th. All performances will be in the Avon Grove High School Auditorium, beginning at 7:30pm. These groups will also be visiting local organizations and performing in the community, showcasing our talents as well as spreading good will and cheer. Finally, our all-school performance will be held on December 21.

We are also proud to be sponsoring several student and teacher-based fundraisers or collection efforts to benefit local organizations and families in need. Please check with your children as to the drop off or collection deadlines. Some of the items being collected include winter apparel (hats, gloves, coats), as well as a teddy bear drive. If you would like to take part in these or other programs, please send your slightly used or new items to the school so we can redistribute them to those in need.

Finally, this is also the time of year during which students can order school yearbooks. The forms are available from each homeroom teacher as well as online. The cost is \$20 and only pre-ordered books are guaranteed for delivery. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Matlack at mmatlack@avongrove.org for more information.

Happy Holidays,

Michael Snopkowski, Ed.D