

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2010! I hope the time during the holidays and winter break was relaxing and enjoyable for you and your children.

The 2009-2010 school year is moving ahead at full speed at Fred S. Engle. We are more than halfway through our second marking period, with report cards coming out at the end of the month. I want to thank all of you for the positive feedback regarding the new grade reporting system, Power School. Your feedback has helped us to identify issues with the system and make improvements. Over 94% of families have used the system to check grades or attendance, and this is an outstanding example of the investment you are making in your child's academic progress.

During the month of December, we saw the tremendous talent and artistic ability at Engle. The performing arts groups, including our various bands, choral groups, and orchestra, performed several concerts for our school and community. The talent of these performers, along with the expectations and guidance of our teachers (Mr. Skoniczin, Mrs. Staherski, and Mrs. Persons) demonstrated the heights we can reach when we are working together, using our talents, and focused on a common goal.

The month of January will include the first opportunity for Engle students to visit Avon Grove High School as a group to meet the administration and teachers. AGHS is hosting an open house for 8th grade parents and students on January 20. The goal of this night is for you and your children to begin to learn about the expectations of AGHS and use the information to begin planning the 9th grade academic selections for your children. Engle's guidance department will continue meeting with each 8th grader during January, culminating in the selection of courses for the 2010-2011 school year at the beginning of February. Please keep an eye on the website and speak with your children about this process.

During January we will also continue to get ready for the basketball fundraiser, our biggest fundraiser of the year. This event will take place on February 25th, and as in the past, will feature a basket raffle and student-faculty basketball game. Please plan now and mark your calendar so that you can participate in this wonderful event. The themes of the baskets range from a beach getaway to pet pampering, so there really is something for everyone. The game itself will match our faculty against our students. Last year bragging rights stayed with the teachers, but this year's students are already rumored to be practicing their plays.

In the near future, we are going to begin more specific preparations for the PSSA exams that will be administered in April. All of our students have been working very hard to learn the content and specific skills necessary to be successful in a variety of situations. We will be taking these skills and content knowledge and reviewing different ways to be successful on the exams. More information will be forthcoming about this process.

As always, please contact us if you need any assistance.

Regards,

Michael Snopkowski