

MENDHAM TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A home for nurturing habits of the heart and the mind



Office of the Principal

September 15, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Mendham Township Elementary School Community,

I hope this letter finds your household settling down from the shift in routines with the first full week of school behind us. The transformation from the leisure of summer to the commotion of early fall is not easily made! However, our children have made an excellent transition acclimating themselves to the school day. It is wonderful to have all of our Tigers back!

It is my honor to welcome you to the 2008-09 school year. We are off to a very smooth start, for which I thank all of you, the office staff, our custodial staff, the transportation department and of course our teachers for having their classrooms and lessons ready to go on opening day. They can now enjoy the fruit of their work and planning over the summer. I also want to thank our diligent and generous H.S.A. volunteers for again assisting us with the kindergarteners by helping them off the bus and walking them to their classrooms the first few mornings. The Beautification committee deserves our recognition as well for having our entrance and lobby decorated for the first day.

Several committees worked diligently over the summer to enhance our curriculum, and instruction and assessment practices in the areas of literacy and math. We are working toward the full implementation of the Lucy Calkins Writing Units of Study for the 2009-2010 school year, while enhancing the small group instruction components of balanced literacy in all grades. I am happy to inform the community that the elementary school secured a grant from the Morris County Municipal Alliance to implement a scientifically research-based character education program called Caring School Community. When the funds become available in January, we will make our initial materials purchase and plan for full implementation in 2009-2010. The H.S.A. has generously offered to provide the funds for teacher professional development with the program. We are proud of the fact that our administration, faculty and staff models being the life-long learners we desire each of our students to be.

As we go forward and the first leaves of fall drift to the ground, we begin to "hit our stride." Be sure to check the website often and be mindful of the school calendar. For instance, school will be closed September 30 for Rosh Hashanah, October 9 for Yom Kippur and again October 13 for Columbus Day. I will be hosting my Principal Assemblies for the students tomorrow, September 16 and I look forward to seeing you on Back-to-School Night, this Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m. You will soon be hearing about our Safe Schools Week events in early October and before you know it, we will be watching the Halloween parade!

As always, should you have any comments, questions or concerns regarding any aspect of your child's educational experience at M.T.E.S., never hesitate to contact me. On behalf of the faculty and staff, know that we are honored to be your child's educators and to have such an important role in these formative years of their educational journey. We look forward to another great year of growth and learning at MTES.

Very truly yours,

Michael Craver

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