

October 20, 2009

Dear Parents,

It seems as if Fall is getting ready to say good-bye and it is likely that many of you are already preparing for the winter months. I have heard two reports about the 2010 winter forecast-dry and exceptionally cold with the other report being more snow than we have seen in ten years. I guess we will just have to wait and see.

**PARENT CONFERENCES** are scheduled for **Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** and we hope that we can achieve our goal of 100% participation this year! Please call Mrs. Vadnais to schedule your appointment(s) with your child's teacher(s). Our specialists will also be available so if you would like to meet with Ms. Broughton (music), Mrs. Brown (art), Mr. McKeen (physical education and health), or with Mrs. Hadeka, our school nurse, please let Mrs. Vadnais know that as well. The teachers will be prepared to share samples of your child's work, discuss your child's progress, and address any questions or concerns you may have at this time. Appointments vary from 15 minutes to 20 minutes in length. If you arrive at the end of your conference still needing additional time, please schedule a follow-up appointment with the teacher.

**This year we will continue to involve our students in grades 6-8 in the conference. This is a common and best practice among junior highs and middle schools.** Students are very capable of discussing their progress with the support of their teachers and parents. Oftentimes questions parents have about their children's performance can be best answered by the students themselves. These students will be sharing the goals they have established for the first marking period and the plans they created to achieve their goals.

**We ask that you reserve Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. for an Internet/Tech Safety Program entitled "Technicool".** "Technicool" is a brand new Technology Safety Program generously funded through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The program looks at common concerns surrounding the internet and encourages safe on-line behavior by addressing the risks inherent in the technology our children access every day. Topics that will be addressed include cyberbullying and online predators, social networking sites (My Space and Facebook), blogging and chatting, cell phones and text messaging, photo and video sharing, as well as on-line gaming. The evening is designed for parents and babysitting will be available. **We do ask that you call the school if you are interested in the babysitting service so we can arrange for ample childcare.** Our students will participate in a "Technicool" presentation during the school day. There will be a drawing for a digital camera at the evening presentation; you must be in attendance to win! Special thanks to Mr. Smolinski and Mrs. Alger for arranging for this evening.

**Other dates to keep in mind:**

November 10<sup>th</sup>- Veterans' Day Observance at 10:00 A.M.

November 10<sup>th</sup>- Grades 6-8 to Benson for the T.I.G.E.R. Teen Theatre at 1:15 P.M.

November 12<sup>th</sup>- Grades K-5 to Benson for Safe and Sound All Around Theatre Program at 1:15 P.M.

November 11<sup>th</sup>- Veterans' Day- NO SCHOOL

November 17<sup>th</sup>- Technicool Presentation- Grades 7 & 8-10:30-11:30 and Grades 5 & 6- 12:50 to 1:50 with an evening program for parents and interested community members from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

November 19<sup>th</sup>- You're invited to join your children for a Thanksgiving Feast (see invitation & make sure to RSVP)

November 24<sup>th</sup>- Grades K-2 to Castleton Fine Arts Center for Rainbow Fish Performance at 1:00 P.M.

December 15<sup>th</sup>- Winter Concert (December 16 in case of snow day)

We look forward to seeing you at parent conferences!

Sincerely,