



Schoolcraft Community Schools

Administration Building
269-488-7390

Schoolcraft Early Elementary
269-488-7200

Schoolcraft Upper Elementary
269-488-7250

Schoolcraft Middle School
269-488-7300

Schoolcraft High School
269-488-7350

November 28, 2011

Dear Parents

As I come off this wonderful weekend of food, family, food, football, and ... (Did I say "food?"), I have been spending some time just thinking about the things for which we as a Schoolcraft family can be thankful. Also, this letter is full of information that requires your review, input, or action. Please read carefully.

First, let me thank you for the generosity shown in our recent food drive to help the people of South County. We collected enough food to provide meals for over 15 families. On Friday, December 9th between 5:00 and 7:00, we have one more opportunity to share what we have with one of our own families. Please come to the spaghetti supper co-sponsored with the United Methodist Church, have a great meal, and support the Milan family as they go through a rough period of medical and housing challenges. (Please see the attached flyer.)

Second, I want to thank the PTO for their continued and tireless support of our schools. The fundraisers and events they (you) sponsor result in thousands of dollars being put back into the efforts dedicated to our children at a time when state funding reductions are common and all too frequent. Currently, the PTO is sponsoring a "Chuck-a-puck" fundraiser at the Kalamazoo Wings hockey game on January 6th. Your child should be bringing home a flyer this week that tells how they can support this great money maker (copies are also attached). More information can be found on the PTO website. Another important fundraiser that benefits our camp program is the series of middle school dances. At the last dance we netted almost \$750. Unfortunately, because of competing schedules and facility issues, we are not able to have a dance in December, but we have three more dances scheduled for this school year. The remaining dances will be held on the following Saturday nights:

January 21 March 3 April 28

Special thanks needs to go to Suzanne Sloan for her organization and flexibility for these dances. We have thrown her a few curves this year and she has handled them admirably.

Third, I want to thank the MS teachers and staff for their energy, creativity, and dedication in continuing to work on improving the educational experience of your child. All core subject and Integrated Studies teachers met in department groups on either Monday or Tuesday last week and jump-started our school improvement efforts. In the core subjects, they focused on refining the learning objectives and creating common assessments that define the rigor of what we are expecting the students to learn. In the IS groups, the vision of being able to differentiate what is offered based on individual student needs started to take shape. It is exciting!

Finally, I would like to thank the students (and the parents, siblings, and staff who help them). Over 75% of our kids are earned a place on the honor roll for first quarter. Their dedication to meeting and in some cases exceeding the expectations of their classes is to be applauded.

In terms of upcoming events, we have four solid weeks of learning wedged into this space between the holidays. Please continue to help us keep your child focused on his or her education during this stretch. We have full days of school through Friday, December 23rd. School resumes after break on Monday, January 9th. During the week of December 5th, Gryphon Place staff will be in to talk to our 7th graders about suicide awareness and prevention. More information is provided in an attached letter.

There are continued opportunities here to expand beyond the academics for your child. Boys basketball and girls cheer events are ongoing in December. Art Club continues to meet every other Wednesday. The newly formed Culture Club (an outreach of our Spanish instruction) has its first activity night after school on Friday the 2nd. Signups and permission slips are in the office. A signup sheet for wrestling is also in the office. There is much fun to be had.

Sincerely and again with many thanks
John