



## CENTER DRIVE SCHOOL

### *HOME OF THE EAGLES*

To: Members of the School Committee

Fm: Judy Marvin, Principal

March 23, 2016

April, one of my favorite months when working in a school system! I begin to feel the potential excitement that the students feel as we head into the last stretch of the school year. Warmer weather is upon us which allows for students to spend more time outside. The skills we have been teaching all year begin to transfer and make sense to students, seeing connections and applications to new learning.

By the time we meet we will be two weeks into the new state assessment, MEA, for our students in grades 3-8. As I write this letter, we are on day 2. I am so pleased with the way the teachers and students have embraced this test. We had a mandatory training at our last staff meeting with many questions answered. This assessment tests for approximately 7 hours over the course of 4 weeks. The 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the schedule has students testing for approximately 2.5 hours over the course of a week, leaving the last week as free as possible for make-ups. One of the difficulties we have encountered is students arriving after testing has started or leaving before they have completed a test. Once a test has begun, it cannot be carried over to the following day, thus students not getting credit for the work they had done. This will hopefully be something that gets addressed next year if the state maintains this test.

I had the opportunity to participate in a book study, Fair Isn't Always Equal, that Mr. Mugnai is doing with our middle school teachers. This book encourages educators to reflect on assessment and grading in a differentiated curriculum. It is so enjoyable to work with educators as they begin to see the connections between initiatives that we have been exploring and how they all tie together. I would like to applaud Mr. Mugnai on the work he is doing with these teachers, giving them the chance to extend their knowledge through this professional development opportunity. It was obvious from listening to their conversations and the questions that they asked that they are developing a deeper understanding of assessing the standards and implementing interventions towards these standards.