April Message News and Notes

Last year, our biggest storm of the year occurred in early April! Could it be that winter is behind us? I certainly hope so! Stella brought our area four feet of snow. I’m grateful to Keith Williams and our grounds staff as well as Chris Haar and our facilities staff for the outstanding job that they did digging out and preparing our campus for school. The closure of school for two days brings to five the number of emergency days that we have used. It is my great hope that winter weather is behind us.

I hope that many in the community were able to attend our All School Musical “The Addams Family”. Directed by Ellen Campion and Alyssa Bouthillier, the play, with exceptional performances by the entire cast and crew, was a triumph of music and comedy. We are so fortunate to have this opportunity for our students; to have such excellent facilities; and to have a school community willing to support the arts. We have such talented students and the play is yet another example in which that talent is displayed.

Every quarter of the school year is busy, but the next three months, are not only busy, but they are critical to our students and our community. State assessments, Regents exams, finals, spring sports, prom, budget vote and election, as well as the Class of 2017 Graduation all mark the calendar in the next three months! Every event is important and reflects a tremendous amount of effort and meaning for the community.

Life has tests! They start early and continue throughout life. During school, we give students many tests to measure learning and skill development. Whether classroom quizzes or unit tests, the grades 3-8 ELA or Math assessments or the Regents exams taken by students in grades 8-12, the results provide a measure of our students’ preparation for the next level. As a parent, I’ve always wanted to know how my children were progressing; results on these tests provide part of the overall picture. I encourage all of our parents to have students take and do their best on these important exams.

In May, our community will once again have the opportunity to vote on our school budget and elect school board members. Community, we need you! Currently, we have two open seats on the school board. We need community members willing to serve the school district through service on the school board. Eligibility information and petitions can be picked up in the district office and must be returned by mid-April to participate in the board election. Our board has been working diligently on the 17/18 school budget; the community can hear a complete presentation on the budget on May 9 and vote on May 16. Please come out and vote!

During the final quarter of the school year, we say our good byes to valued members of our school community. Our seniors celebrate a great achievement during graduation and share their thanks with family, friends, and educators who have supported them. Each year, members of our staff also say their goodbye to Mount Markham. We are so grateful for the service and dedication of those who have committed their lives to supporting our students. To our seniors and to our retirees, I share my thanks and best wishes. For our seniors, great adventures await; for our retirees, you enter a long-awaited chapter of your life that I hope is filled with adventure, with good health and happiness.

The school year is like a long-distance race. We are entering the final laps. Let’s finish strong and just like our cross country team, let’s leave no runners behind!

Paul Berry, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools