November, 2016

There are so many wonderful activities occurring on our campus. I’d like to thank our faculty, administration and staff, as well as our MOMMS, Mount Markham Foundation and Optimist Club, for their support and coordination of our field trips, Arts in Education programming, and special activities that enrich our students’ school experience. Recently, we have also received grant support from Dollar General and the Mele Family Foundation to support our Books at Home early literacy program as well. Without question, our mission is to prepare our students to be productive citizens and lifelong learners. This message is achieved inside and outside the classroom.

We are proud of our student-athletes! During the fall, hundreds of our students participate in a variety of sports including football, soccer, cross country and field hockey. From our pop warner to our modified, junior varsity and varsity athletes, each of these students is balancing academic progress with athletic participation. Playing a sport brings many benefits and life lessons. Playing a sport also requires and teaches time management and organizational skills. All of our teams experienced successful seasons and one team, the boys’ varsity soccer team coached by Chuck Engle and Barrett Hawes continues play on November 1 in the section III final. Congratulations to all of our student athletes and Good luck to our soccer players and coaches!

Arts in Education is a wonderful program that offers enrichment to all of our students. Creative and performing arts are an important part of our culture and school program. This fall and winter, our students will participate in and attend a Jazz Quartet, the Nutcracker Ballet, the Merry Go Round Playhouse, the Munson Williams Proctor Institute, and enjoy wonderful field trips to local farms, farmer’s markets, and historical sites. All of these great activities enrich our students learning experience and are coordinated by our wonderful staff.

Our campus has been preparing for the unimaginable! Lockdown drills are a required part of our emergency preparedness plans and as part of the drills, the district has been sending voice, text and email messages. In the event of a real emergency, the district would use these as well as our website and Twitter feed to share important information about the emergency. It is important that parents update their contact information with their child’s school office.

I want to take a moment to thank Jack Kilty for over 14 years of service on our school board. On behalf of our school community, I’d like to thank Jack for his service and share how much his support to the district and to this superintendent has meant. Jack has been an important member of our governance team and he will be missed. The board has invited community members interested in joining the board to submit a letter of intent to the district office by November 14.

Finally, I want to encourage each registered voter in our school community to vote on November 8. This is an important right and responsibility of being a citizen of the United States and an important opportunity for parents, teachers and community members to engage our students in meaningful discussions about the issues that impact each of us.

Thank you for your support of your school district.