May 2019 Superintendent Corner

It’s difficult to narrow my message for the month of May. The last two months of the school year are packed with must see/must attend events (concerts, art shows, prom, award programs, moving up ceremonies and of course, graduation). We are just days away from our annual budget vote and board election (May 21). A group of community residents is gearing up to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the merger that formed Mount Markham and of course, we could talk about the rain and the havoc it is causing on our spring sports season!

First things first; we are certainly grateful for the rain, but feel that we may be getting more than our share; thank you, very much. Despite best efforts by our outstanding grounds crew, our playing fields are so wet that they have been unplayable. Mr. Haven, our excellent athletic director, works to manage umpires, referees, and opposing team schedules in an attempt to reschedule missed games. The situation is frustrating for coaches, players, parents, fans and school personnel. We are grateful for everyone’s understanding and we are thankful for Mr. Haven, Mr. Williams and his crew for doing all that they can to help our student-athletes get as many games in as possible.

The rain will not stop the Prom! This Saturday, Mount Markham juniors, seniors and their dates will don their finest and look forward to a memorable evening. This year’s theme is “A Crystal Gala”. Community members are invited to view the Grand March in the high school auditorium Saturday, May 18 from 5:30-6:30PM. The Prom follows at 7PM at Daniele’s Banquet Specialists in New Hartford. The evening ends with the After Prom Party at the high school from 11:30PM to approximately 3am. We hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe Prom!

On Tuesday, May 21 eligible community members are encouraged to vote as part of the school budget vote and school board election. Voting takes place from 1-8PM at the elementary cafeteria. Once again, our board has done a terrific job of constructing a school budget that has a tax levy increase of less than 2% (1.98%). The budget vote will have two propositions. Proposition one seeks permission to levy the necessary taxes to fund the school program. The total budget for 2019-2020 is $27,135,637. A second proposition asks for support of the Bridgewater and West Winfield Public Libraries to levy taxes of $52,551. Three school board seats are open. Philip Casler, Robert Cross, Christopher Burke and Scot Clark are running. We are grateful to the community and to each board candidate for their involvement.

To the over 4000 Mount Markham Alumni out there, we invite you to help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of your school district! A group of alumni has formed a committee and they are planning several activities to take place during the 2019-2020 school year to celebrate the District’s Golden Anniversary! The committee seeks to identify a point of contact for each graduating class (1970-2020). The point of contact is encouraged to develop a list of classmates with current addresses, email and phone numbers. These can be shared with Gene and Mary Doremus at gene.doremus@gmail.com. Activities are being planned in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 4-5), graduation and a summer reunion. The organizing committee will meet again on June 19 at 3:30 at the boardroom located at the Mount Markham Middle School.

With so many wonderful events occurring, it’s hard to choose your focus. I hope that community members will take every opportunity that they can to cheer, celebrate and congratulate our students over the final weeks of the school year. I also hope that we’ll experience more sun than rain; that many Mount Markham Alumni will reach out and want to catch up with their classmates and celebrate the District’s 50th Anniversary; and finally, that all eligible voters will cast their ballots on Tuesday, May 21!