November 25, 2013

Dear Fuller Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to share with you the first edition of “Teaching and Learning Matters,” a bi-monthly publication of the exciting news that is happening on all eight of our teams. We are very proud of the work that our teachers and students do every day together and we look forward to communicating the highlights with you.

The big fall event that helps define who we are as a community is almost here! The Turkey Trot is this Wednesday, and although it may be windy and a little rainy, Fuller Middle School will persevere and move ahead as planned. Please have your child dress according to the anticipated weather. Kudos to Caitlin Stempleski for creating over 250 color coordinated headbands for participants to wear during the Trot. With the help of Robin Hackett, Kevin Gill, and Lisa Columbo, all head bands will have a number on them. I look forward to my first Turkey Trot followed by the Student Recognition Assembly led by Kate Joyce. With Anthony Cardarelli spinning tunes as *DJ Exponent*, a good time is guaranteed. Thank you to everyone for making this happen; this is a fabulous Fuller team effort and a strong culture builder! Oh, one more thing – I hope the winner of the pie selling contest has really bad aim.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I am mindful of how fortunate I am to work with such terrific kids and families, along with a talented and creative staff. A quote that I came across may resonate with you as it did with me in this season of gratitude:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." *John F. Kennedy*

With highest regards,

Sharon

**Fuller Dates this week**

November 25th Spirit Week! Monday 11/25 is “Wear your favorite sports outfit Day”, Tuesday 11/26 is “Twin Day” (dress alike in groups of two or three), Wednesday, 11/27 is “Show your team pride Day!”

November 25th Fuller School Council 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Fuller library

November 25th Fuller PTO 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

November 27th Turkey Trot and all-school pep rally!

 *RACE TIMES*

Gr. 6 8:25 – 9:15

 Gr. 7 9:08 – 9:45

 Gr. 8 9:50 – 10:30

November 27th Early Release Day and 1st Trimester ends

Nov. 28–29th NO SCHOOL – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**Future Fuller Dates**

December 2nd Trimester 2 begins

December 10th **(New date)** Report cards go home

December 5th Early Release/Professional Development

December 23rd-31st NO SCHOOL--- FULLER REOPENS THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014

January 20th NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 27th Fuller School Council 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Fuller library

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January 31st NO SCHOOL Professional Development

February 6th Early Release

February 12th SAVE THE DATE -- Jazz Bands from all 3 middle schools and two jazz bands from the high school will perform in the Fuller auditorium. Several hundred people expected to attend. More information forthcoming

February 17th NO SCHOOL PRESIDENTS’ DAY

February 18th -21st NO SCHOOL – Winter Recess

February 27th Early Release

**Important Topics**

UPCOMING SCREENINGS

In the coming weeks and months, students will receive vision, hearing, postural, and Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings as required by Massachusetts Law. You may request that your child not be screened for vision, hearing, and postural if you have a religious exemption or if you have documentation from your child’s primary health care provider stating that the screenings have been done in the past six months. Please state your religious exemption in writing and/or provide physician’s documentation to Ms. Noble, the Fuller school nurse. You may request that your child not be screened for BMI by making the request in writing to your school nurse.

SCHOOL COUNCIL/INTERACT CLUB

The Fuller School Council and Interact club is collecting food for the holidays to put together more than fifteen holiday baskets of holiday dinners for families in need this Thanksgiving holiday. We are in need of traditional canned or boxed foods and gift cards. Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause and feel good about helping Fuller families in need this Thanksgiving.

PARENT PICK-UP/DROP OFF

Students can ONLY be dropped off in the side (Mass Bay Community College) parking lot. For safety reasons, students should not be dropped off in front of the school. Drivers please take note and respect signs in front of the school and traffic monitors. Please drive slowly while on or near school property.

FULLER WEBSITE

We have a great website that is updated by our talented webmaster, Joe Pagano. We hope that the information here will be an excellent communication tool for families. As we work to improve the website’s effectiveness, please give us feedback. Check it out at <http://framingham.k12.ma.us/fuller.cfm>

FULLER PTO

Fuller PTO has a Facebook page! Be sure to check it out and become a “friend” of this page to stay connected with PTO activities. Please sign up for the PTO newsletter by contacting fullerpto@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Regular, on time attendance to school is strongly associated with academic achievement. Please make sure that you are encouraging your child to be on time and present every day, unless they have a fever or vomiting. Students who are repeatedly tardy without an excuse will be assigned consequences such as lunch detention and/or office detention.

FULLER PARENT CENTER

We are very excited to announce that our Parent Center, located in the Guidance Office, is now open to parents and guardians of Fuller students. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and parents need to sign-in at Guidance and provide a form of ID. There are four computers with internet access and soon, we will open the Parent Portal of X2 for parents and students to check progress.

**Clubs/After School Activities** It is not too late for kids to join a club!! Encourage your child to stop in to any of the following clubs.

Late buses are up and running Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. After school buses will pick up students at 4:15 p.m. and bus them home. The following clubs are offered on the following days:

Study Center-Library: 3-4 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

After School Activities: in the Gym 3–4 every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Math Club: 2:30-3:30 every Thursday in Rm. B45

Politics and Current events: 3-4 every Wednesday in Rm. B24

Jazz Choir: 7–8 a.m. on Thurs. & Fri. Rm. C13; Jazz Band: 7–8 a.m. on Thurs. & Fri. Rm. C20

Yearbook Club: 3 – 4 every other Wednesday; Dates are as follows: Oct. 23; Nov. 6; Nov. 20; Dec. 4; Dec. 18; Jan. 8

Student Council: 2:30–3:30 every Thursday in Rm. B40

Future Science and Engineers Coming - meets Wednesdays