

November 3, 2014

Dear Fuller Families

I can't believe October is over, and that we are facing the winter months. It's true what they say – that time flies when you are having fun!

As you know, on November 4th, there is no school for students, but all teachers in the FPS have a professional development day. Fuller staff will be working with our STEAM consultant, David Stephen, to assist us with the planning of our first cycle of STEAM projects of the school year. While every team has been busy collaborating and designing a project (many teachers were engaged in summer workshops for this purpose), we will need to “tune” our projects to make sure that they have all the elements necessary for a true and rigorous STEAM project. We will also be learning about training students to prepare for *Presentations of Learning* (tentatively scheduled during the school day for January of 2015) and the final event, *Exhibition of Learning* (scheduled in the evening for late May or early June of 2015). It is very important that students are able to describe their focus of inquiry, their process, and learning outcomes with an authentic audience. We know that communication is an essential 21st century skill, so teachers will learn how to prepare students for these events. We will also be working on assessing student work (projects) through developing rubrics; this allows students to be clear about what is expected of them, what they need to do to be successful, and how they will demonstrate what they have learned. We look forward to inviting you to Fuller Middle School in January to learn more about what students have been learning.

News from 6th grade science – developing community partnerships!

Joanne Rogan and James Keady will participate in the American Chemistry Society (ACS) Science Coach program this school year at Fuller. ACS Science Coaches are chemistry professionals who share their expertise and enthusiasm for science with a school teacher and their class over the course of one school year. Emily Calderwood, a Medicinal Chemist at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, will serve as the Science Coach. She will work with Joanne and James to plan and facilitate inquiry-based science lessons that connect the sixth grade Earth Science curriculum to chemistry. Since our school is in year-one of developing into a STEAM school, Joanne, James and Emily will strive to create lessons that integrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math. A chemist would be a beneficial asset to the sixth grade students and teachers by providing lessons and laboratory activities that connect chemistry to Earth science, and by helping students to understand the interrelationships of various branches of science. Students may gain a deeper understanding of the scientific process through authentic practice and making real-world connections. The American Chemical Society will donate \$500 to Fuller Middle School to enhance students' science education. This is an exciting opportunity for Fuller's sixth grade science students.

[Grade 8 Parents --- Informational Night with FHS Principal Adam Goldberg](#)

[On November 13th, from 6:30-8:00](#) in the high school auditorium, parents and guardians of current eighth grade students are invited to an evening to discuss the upcoming transition to high school. Mr. Goldberg is visiting all three middle schools this fall (he will be with Fuller 8th graders on

November 13th) to speak to 8th grade students about the habits, behaviors, and skills that guide the course selection process and that will help ensure success during the transition to high school. You will hear more about this message, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in the dialogue that will help empower you to support your son/daughter through this year.

I am pleased to be sharing these emails in Portuguese, Spanish and English; effective communication to all families is a priority of mine. Effective December, I will be sending the Fuller Family email on a monthly basis. I trust that the daily emails you get from Ron Harvey, along with the trimester Fuller newsletter, "Teaching and Learning Matters," will ensure that, as Ron indicates in his daily email, you are "In the know."

Sincerely,

Sharon

Fuller Dates

Monday 11/3	Science coach Emily Calderwood joins 6 th grade students, focusing on chemistry connections to earth science
Tuesday 11/4	No School – Voting Day (Staff has Professional Development Day)
Thursday 11/6	Metrowest Adolescent Survey (all students will take survey after home room)
Friday 11/7	Student Portal grades are updated – Parents/guardians can view their child’s grades through this portal.
Monday 11/10	School Council in Fuller Library 5:30-7:00 PTO meeting in Fuller Library 7:00-8:00
Tuesday 11/11	No School – Veterans Day
Thursday 11/13	6:30-8:00 at FHS – Informational Night with Principal Adam Goldberg -- for 8 th grade parents and guardians
Monday 11/17	Genzyme scientists come to 6 th grade science classes
Wednesday 11/19	Masai group comes to Fuller – a presentation about the culture of the Masai people
Thursday 11/20	Mike Morris comes to 6 th grade science classes to discuss Plum Island erosion
Wednesday 11/26	Fuller’s annual Turkey Trot!! Early Release day (dismissal 11:25 am) No after school activities
Thursday 11/27	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
Friday 11/28	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
Monday 12/1	Trimester 1 ends
Tuesday 12/2	Picture retakes
Thursday 12/4	Early Release day (dismissal 11:25 am) No after school activities
Friday 12/5	Genzyme scientists return to join the 6 th grade science classes
Monday 12/8	Report cards go home with students First Newsletter "Teaching and Learning Matters" – attached to report card

Friday 12/12 2:30-5:15 PTO-sponsored movie matinee – “Elf” will be shown in the Fuller auditorium

Thursday 12/18 Science coach Emily Calderwood joins 6th grade students, focusing on chemistry connections to earth science

Tuesday 12/23 1:00-2:20 All School *Community Meeting* -- “Bandapalooza”
Student Portal grades are updated – Parents/guardians can view their child’s grades through this portal.

12/24-1/2/15 Winter break

Monday 1/5/15 Happy New Year! Welcome back – School is in session