

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Welcome to 2017, the start of a year that promises to be filled with good health and happiness!

It was a wonderful break, and I count you all as part of my great fortune in life. Below are a few pieces of information for you.

### **OUR SCHOOL**

Yesterday, I found out that night I need to present to the board and community members a quick overview on our school. The district is responding to those who would like more information about the currently existing magnets (us) and the proposed magnets (STEM and International Baccalaureate). Although you are not the intended audience, as you already know what Columbus Magnet is all about, you are more than welcome to attend the meeting at the Board of Education tonight, beginning at 7:00PM.

### **ART TEACHER**

The situation with our art teacher is progressing. We thank Mrs. Rachael Rosenberg for filling in for the three months. We spent considerable time meeting with two candidates during the vacation who ended up not working out. I have two candidates left, and a decision should be made within the next two weeks. Hiring takes time. I am picky and deliberate, and I prefer not to settle. Thank you for your patience

### **LOTTERY**

Lottery season is upon us. Tours and information sessions will be scheduled and posted on our school and subsequent Thursday notices. Rest assured, our resident chronicler and Columbus historian, Mrs. Lakin, is close to provide perspective and advice.

### **GOVERNANCE**

Kix Ryen, Rina Britell, Eva Balazs, Nyeisha Arnold, Michael Toledo, Meghan Hopkins, Nalini Jones, Katie Restrepo, Dee Walters, Lauren Baker, Anthony Nunes, Terry Lakin, Sue Stroffolino, Lisa Murray and Jen Scanlan are your hardworking governance board members. It is a privilege to work alongside such passionate and talented group of people. I appreciate their advice and expertise, and gladly will use them as sounding boards for decisions concerning our school.

### **OUR FUTURE**

It looks as if we are slated to move out of our current building into a newly constructed setting at Nathaniel Ely School in 3 years. The immediate issue at hand is what will our middle school look like in our current setting. There have been concerns about how to accommodate older children in our existing site. I will create a faculty facility committee to draw up plans for classrooms for the next three years. As you know, we will moving to a 2 class per grade structure, from K-8. As for our middle schoolers, I have heard several concerns from parents. As the parent of a current 6th grader, the only difference I can see between his setting and what we can offer, is the ability for children to move from room to room depending on their subjects. The challenges are not insurmountable. Will it be tight? Absolutely. Will children receive a rigorous, innovative and quality education that differs from the traditional model found in already existing schools? Absolutely. After some initial convincing, I am thrilled to announce that MISTY HOFER will be the new 6th Grade teacher. We have been working behind the scenes to create a 6th grade for our Columbus Magnet students who opt to remain. In February, we will hold an information session for 5TH GRADE PARENTS ONLY.

AND FINALLY...

As we embark on a new year, let us think broadly and consider the many opportunities we will have for our children and their future. Change will happen. It is inevitable. Let's embrace it and make the most of the fact we are an excellent school. It is still my privilege to be your principal and partner.

From my family to yours,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Love,  
MrT