

November 30, 2016

December Greetings to Our Middle School Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that three months have passed in the school year and we are now preparing for the holiday season. We are in full swing here at LFCMS and look forward to finishing the calendar year with the same focus and drive that we started with in September. This is not easy to do with all of the distractions we will face in the next several weeks; however, we are determined to make sure our curriculum continues to get delivered and your children continue to move forward with their academic, social and emotional growth.

November brought the end of our first marking period and grades are now available for viewing in the Genesis Parent Portal. Please remember that no report cards will be printed or mailed home unless a request is made. Please contact us if there is a hardship and you are not able to view your child's grades on Genesis. Also contact us if you do not have access to the Genesis Parent Portal. Moving forward into the second marking period, 8th grade students will be required to take a mid-term exam towards the end of January. These exams will either be content based or skills based depending on the subject area. Please be sure to stay informed through the teachers' websites or Google Classroom pages. Mid-Term and final exams will only be given to the 8th graders in order to prepare them for the assessment structures of high school.

Three qualities I preach to our students each day involve the importance of kindness to others, respect for our differences and acknowledgement for the needs of charity. We were able to do some great things for some of our less fortunate Fort Lee families during the month of November. Our S.A.D.D. organization (Students Against Destructive Decisions) ran its annual food drive to support our needy families throughout the Thanksgiving weekend. Our school collected approximately 800 non-perishable items that were delivered to Fort Lee's Human Resources Department. This is a huge accomplishment that taught our students about the importance of helping others in times of need.

This month, we are hosting a coat drive and toy drive at LFCMS through our SADD organization and Foreign Language Club, respectively. Please send your child to school with any new or lightly used coats that can benefit a child or adult in need as the cold weather approaches. A coat collection bin will be set up in the foyer outside of the gymnasium. Hats, gloves, mittens, boots and scarves will also be accepted. We will also accept any new, unused toys throughout the month of December to help support local children in need. A collection box for toys will also be placed in our school's main entrance foyer outside of the main office. All donations will be delivered to Fort Lee's Human Resources Department.

Although December is a short month (16 full school days and a one-session school day), there are some great events taking place that require your attention. Along with this letter, I have sent a December events calendar that lists all of the important dates for your information. I know this month will be hectic for all of us with holiday shopping and preparations, but we

invite you to be a part of our school community to help support our incredible students and staff.

Our December PTA meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fort Lee Recreation Center located at the bottom of Stillwell Avenue. This will be a wine and cheese social that will allow us to meet and discuss any school initiatives in a less formal setting. No agenda will be set and all topics are open for discussion. I am looking forward to this event and hope to see all of you there.

Our music program will also host its annual winter concert on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This is a great opportunity to see how hard our music teachers and students have worked over the last three months of the school year. Even if you do not have a child in the music program, you are still invited to this holiday performance. The program will feature our four ensembles, which include the bells choir, chorus, instrumental band and string orchestra. Join us for a great night of celebration and music as we get ready for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

The following documents have also been attached to the December e-mail:

1. December Events Calendar
2. December Middle Years Publication
3. PTA Chipotle Fundraiser Flyer

From all of us at LFCMS, we wish you the very best of health and happiness throughout the holiday season. We thank you for your continued support of our public schools and look forward to a great month as we move closer to the arrival of 'Old Man Winter' and 2017.

Grateful,

Robert Daniello
Principal
Lewis F. Cole Middle School

“We are constituted so that simple acts of kindness, such as giving to charity or expressing gratitude, have a positive effect on our long-term moods. The key to the happy life, it seems, is the good life: a life with sustained relationships, challenging work, and connections to community.”

Paul Bloom