

November 2016

Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are receiving this in good health and good spirits as we enter the month of November. This month gives us the opportunity to reflect on what we are thankful for and moves us closer towards the season of hope and giving. Although these messages become more evident in the months of November and December, they are preached daily at our middle school. Every day, we stress the importance of kindness towards others, respect of differences and attitudes of charity. This month also gives me the opportunity to thank all of you, our parents and guardians, for the support that you consistently give to our students and staff. This is vital to the success of our school and provides our students with the foundation needed to grow academically, socially and emotionally.

October was an extremely busy month at LFCMS with all of the character education themes presented to the students. We respectively recognized the Week of Respect, Anti-Violence and Vandalism Week and Red Ribbon Week (anti-drug and alcohol abuse). Each week brought professional speakers who engaged our students and taught them lessons on topics such as cyber safety, self-respect, self-motivation, anti-bullying techniques and recognizing negative peer influence. All of this is taught alongside our academic programs and is designed to help our students make the right decisions as they mature and prepare for high school. We also conducted a parent presentation at our October PTA meeting on cyber safety and dangers of social media. All of this is highly relevant to our middle school children and surfaces every day with peer conflict and resolution. Please continue to have conversations with your child about peer influence and the dangers of social media outlets. Together, we can teach them the appropriate and positive means of using social media and avoiding uncomfortable situations with peers. I am attaching a picture of our human red ribbon taken during Red Ribbon Week at the end of this letter.

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to our PTA and all of the parents and guardians who came out on October 28 to assist with our Halloween Dance. This was a very successful event that provided a lot of fun and entertainment to our students. The PTA funded this event and made it free of charge to all of our students. They provided the DJ, hot dogs, pizza and drinks at no cost. The PTA is gratefully thanked for all of their hard work and support for our students.

November 17 will mark the end of the first marking period for our students. Please be sure to continuously check your child's Genesis Portal to keep up with his/her progress and grades. Our goal is that there are no surprises when report cards are made available through the Genesis Portal. Please be reminded that paper report cards are not distributed and that grades are only available by logging into the Genesis Portal. Final grades for the first marking period are viewable as of 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22.

Our November PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. in our school's media center. This meeting will bring Fort Lee High School's three academy facilitators to speak to you directly about these programs. Fort Lee High School offers academies in Business & Finance, Theatre & Performing Arts and International Baccalaureate studies. This is a great opportunity to gain insight and receive valuable information on how these programs are structured and how your child can apply. A copy of the PTA meeting agenda will be attached to the November e-mail.

Prior to our PTA meeting, we will be providing information at 6:00 p.m. to all parents interested in free after-school language arts and math tutoring for their child. If this is something that interests you, please feel free to join us in our school's media center on November 1 at 6:00 p.m. A tutoring application will be attached to the November e-mail for you to fill out and return if you would like to take advantage of this free offer.

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive is also under way at LFCMS. This will continue through Friday, November 18. Please send your child to school with any non-perishable food items to help support this drive. Your child can bring all items to homeroom or to Mrs. Pinajian in Room 128 throughout the school day. This is a great way for us to promote the spirit of giving as the holidays approach.

Specifically for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and guardians, your child was provided with information regarding the Boston Trip in June. This information should have been brought home to be reviewed. Information included the trip itinerary, transportation information, hotel accommodations and payment methods. PTA meetings are always the best forums to raise any questions or concerns regarding this trip. Most often, your concerns are also the concerns of other parents and guardians. Please do not hesitate to reach out and contact me for more information on Boston.

I once again thank you for all of your dedication and support of our public schools. You help us to shine and provide a solid example for our students to follow. As Thanksgiving approaches, I ask that we reflect on our family and friends and focus on everything we DO have as opposed to what we DO NOT have. All of this includes love, family values and friendships shared. Thank you for all that you do and I wish you the best throughout the month of November.

Sincerely,

Robert Daniello  
Principal  
Lewis F. Cole Middle School

