



October 1, 2009

Dear Students and Parents,

The beginning of the school year has been very successful! I am please to say the transition back to school was a very smooth one for our students and staff. We are honored to welcome 35 new students and families to our Florence Roche Family! All of our students have been very busy learning their new schedules and new curriculum in their new classrooms. A school wide assembly was held on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, to celebrated 3 Young Heroes in our school, Megan, Jordan and Shaylin. We are very proud of their quick actions to safety when they experienced a fire at their home. Each of our classroom teachers have been teaching and re-teaching fire safety rules and last week we had our first fire drill. I am pleased to inform you that all of our students did a wonderful job with this exercise. We will be practicing fire drills and lockdowns with our students throughout the year.

I want to thank our teachers, staff and students for preparing a wonderful Curriculum Night for our parents on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Every classroom teachers' presentation was thorough and detailed to provide parents with a general overview of the curriculum for the year. We hope you all enjoyed meeting your child's teacher, seeing your child's classroom and for some, even doing some work to leave for your child! We hope many parents were able to stop at the many tables of interest that evening, PTA, Welcoming Committee, FAST, SPED PAC, GDEF, GDAY, GSTEM, Destination Imagination, and the Garden Committee. We also have a Technology Committee at Florence Roche. If you are interested in joining this team of volunteers, please contact our school office. Thank you to each of our groups for coming to this event to share ways to get involved in your child's educational experience!

Our School Council parent vote was taken at Curriculum night and I am pleased to announce the following parents have been voted to be a part of the Florence Roche School Council Team: Sara Clinton, Ken Ferrara, Kirti Patel and Helen Varker. Thank you to all of our parents who ran for this office and thank you to all of our parents for placing your votes.

I am pleased to share we have over 35 parent library volunteers! We have had several trainings and our volunteers are doing a fantastic job helping our students checking out books. A special thank you to Barbara Keast for taking on a leadership role in our library and for guiding so many parents as they learn the new library system. Our parent volunteers did a fantastic job during our fire drill yesterday and for some of them it has been 20 years since they experienced a fire drill! Bravo to our volunteers!

The 2009 MCAS scores have been mailed home to parents whose students have taken the tests. Our school scores are posted on our web site and were made available at curriculum night. Packets are in the turnabout in the lobby as well. Should you have any questions about your child's results, please contact their classroom teacher or one of our guidance counselors. This year we are a Title One school and will have staff and programs to support our students who need extra interventions in the area of ELA and Math.

The Principal's Coffee hours have begun and the dates are: October 14<sup>th</sup>, December 9<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The morning coffees are held at Herb Lyceum on Main Street, from 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

Our first Sped PAC roundtable discussion is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Flo Ro Cafeteria from 9:30-10:30.

The PTA Meetings for the year are: Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>.

As we begin the year together, we remind parents that we encourage them to take an active part in their child's educational experience here at Flo Ro! All parent volunteers must have an approved CORI. We see our partnership with parents as a bridge that will expand your child's success at Florence Roche.

Reminders:

1. We ask parents to pay particular attention to the importance of having children arrive to school on time to insure a smooth transition and predictability to the day.
2. We will be posting our Academic Flo and the Flo Ro Flash on our web site in an effort to save paper. Should you need a paper copy we can provide you with one if you call the office.
3. Please send in the information from the welcome back packets as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ruthann Goguen, Principal

#### GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:

It is the policy of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or homelessness in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Also, students will not be excluded for reasons of marriage or pregnancy. Requests for information about these laws and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Dr. Susan Rübél, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, (978) 448-5505.

