

September 4, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are very pleased to inform you that the Florence Roche Elementary School and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teams in the Middle School have been given the opportunity to pilot two different high quality reading programs. The first program, *Reading Streets*, published by Pearson, allows us to participate in a nationwide longitudinal (2 year) research based study, for grades K through 5. This research is being conducted by Gatti Evaluations, an independent evaluation firm with expertise in conducting educational research projects. This study involves the random selection of teachers and students. We are proud to be one of eight (8) schools in separate regions of the United States to participate in this unique study.

Along with the *Reading Street* two year study, other classes will be piloting a two - year reading program called *Treasures*, published by McGraw Hill in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5. Data will be collected on all students throughout the two year research pilot with the focus on student achievement. **Please understand that personal information and student identities will be kept strictly confidential.** Neither company wishes to identify the performance of individual students, nor will this type of data be reported to the public. This information will be very beneficial in helping us to evaluate our current Balanced Literacy approach to Reading.

As lifelong learners, this unique opportunity has opened the doors for our teachers to take part in looking at a variety of ways to teach reading. Regardless of which program your child will be participating in, he/she will receive the highest quality educational experience we can provide. Should you have any questions about the reading program being used in your child's classroom this year, please feel free to contact either your child's teacher or the building principal.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruthann P. Goguen, Principal Florence Roche

Mr. Steven M. Silverman, Principal Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School