

October 5, 2017

Dear Parents:

Happy Thursday.

Tomorrow, Friday, October 6, is a school pedagogical day. There is no school for the students. Teachers will be attending workshops.

Monday, October 9 is a Holiday. The school is closed.

Attached is information about our Interim Report. It will be going home with your children on Thursday, October 12. This report will be issued through paper copy at this time and in electronic format in the future (this is presently in the works). The report cards will continue to be issued electronically. The school board is working at expanding the Parent Fusion Portal.

I wish you all a HAPPY THANKSGIVING WEEK-END!

Cheers,

Mrs. Di Iorio, Principal



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Principal's Update

Carmela di Iorio

October 4, 2017

INTERIM REPORT CARD



We couldn't have picked a better word than **HOPE** for our school wide picture this year. Research has shown how a student's outlook, in particular non-cognitive factors like **grit** and **hope** are predictors of school success and life in general.

Dr. [Angela Duckworth](#), University of Pennsylvania professor, was awarded a MacArthur Genius Grant for her work in clarifying the role that intellectual strengths and personality traits play in educational achievement. The two traits examined in her work are **GRIT**, the tendency to sustain interest and effort towards long-term goals, and **SELF-CONTROL** the voluntary regulation of behavioural, emotional, and attentional impulses. Based on her research, Duckworth found that GRIT predicts success in acts that require perseverance. Similarly, SELF-CONTROL predicts report card grades and improvements over time better than measured intelligence.

HOPE is another non-cognitive factor that predicts academic outcomes. [Dr. Shane Lopez](#), Gallup Senior Scientist, defines hope as the ideas and energy one has for the future. Research has shown that characteristics like GRIT and HOPE can be taught.

Our school promotes character education and takes into account the 7 significant predictors of character strengths. **Zest:** enthusiastic and energetic participation in life; **Grit:** perseverance and passion for long-term goals; **Self-Control:** the capacity to regulate one's own responses so as they align with short and long-term goals; **Optimism:** confidence in a future full of positive possibilities; **Gratitude:** appreciation for the benefits we receive from others, and the desire to express thanks; **Social Intelligence:** understanding the feelings of others and adapting actions accordingly; **Curiosity:** eagerness to explore new things with openness.

Both a strong academic foundation and well-developed character strengths are necessary for overall success. These are interconnected and one cannot be compromised for the other. These strengths are acquired through mindful practice. Our goal is to give our students a strong foundation to excel in school and be the best that they can be.

The Interim Report Card provides a snapshot of where your child is presently. The purpose of this tool is to set goals in building the [character traits](#) needed for academic success. It is important to note that that this tool should not be used to diagnose or compare children, nor to compare schools or programs. It is to be used to help your child focus on individual growth and development in these areas, and serve as a conversation starter. This Interim Report will be going home with your children on Thursday, October 12. A second will be issued in February/March. The Term 1 Report Card will be issued on November 16.

Sincerely,

Carmela di Iorio, Principal