

June 28, 2011

Dear CPSC Families,

On the longest day of the year, I arrived at school early in the morning to find parents watering the gardens, an intern already at work in the library, family members of staff moving furniture, and a bank loan appraiser snapping photos as we refinance to lower our mortgage. What I was most struck by on this random day in the middle of the summer was how our community was still intensely engaged to make our school a better place to work, play, and grow. I intentionally used the word engaged because almost every person I spoke to today at school shared ideas to help our school improve. When I arrived at CPSC two years ago, I was informed that families are involved but what I notice and hope that we continue to strive for are engaged families. We've created a community where there is a two way path for learning, school to home and home to school.

At the end of the school year, someone handed me an appropriate quote for learning at our school, "I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones." (John Cage, US composer (1912 - 1992)). While many of our ideas are based on traditions that are decades and sometimes centuries old, it is our ability to collaboratively work and learn together to solve complex current issues that defines who we are. In your June Mailing you will notice many opportunities to partner with the school: School Council rep, class parent, library support and several other committees. I want to highlight the last category of school-wide committees as one area that, if you haven't joined in years past, to consider taking part in this year. And if you are a new family, committee work is a great way to roll up your sleeves and solve some of the current challenges we wish to overcome. We will have sign ups at the All School Picnic, at our Back to School Night in July and/or you may sign up by returning your Parent Participation Survey.

As you read through the very helpful information contained in our June mailing we hope it prepares you for a wonderful year ahead. It won't be long before you get a call and a visit from this year's teacher. Enjoy the rest of the summer break and see on July. 20th.

Yours,

John