

November, 2016

Good afternoon,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed the break. As I reflect on the first several months of the school year, I could not be more proud of the outstanding accomplishments of our students and staff and the sense of family and community we have created with our parents. I am thankful to be part of such a wonderful school community and value your partnership with the staff of District 100.

It will be a busy month ahead for our students and we appreciate you continuing to make attendance a priority during the four important weeks of learning prior to winter Break. Next week kindergarten through eighth grade students will take the winter MAP assessment. The first assessment was taken in September and following the winter test, teachers will use the results to determine student growth from fall to winter and progress toward individual academic goals. The MAP assessment allows teachers to make instructional decisions and differentiate learning for students at the classroom level and make comparisons to individual growth projections and national norms. The results will be sent home with students prior to winter break. As always, please contact your child's teacher or building administrators if you have any questions regarding your child's academic progress. Please note that dual language and bilingual students do not take the MAP assessment, but will take their second benchmark using the STAR assessment in February.

As you may recall, state funding over the past several years has been cut, adding up to nearly \$8 million in lost revenue to District 100 since 2012. Legislators continue to discuss changes to the state funding formula and District 100 advocates for an equitable formula for all students in the state of Illinois. We eagerly await the state's recommendations and the impact they will have on the current financial position of the district. In September the Board of Education adopted a budget for this school year that included \$1.5 million in cuts, which allowed the district to operate on a balanced budget. The cuts included decreases in teaching and administrative staff, clubs and athletics, transportation, operational and instructional expenses, and increased class sizes. In the absence of increased state funding, the Board of Education is discussing a possible referendum or additional budget cuts. Please look for information to follow and be assured that we are being vigilant in our efforts to maximize resources to provide the very best opportunities for students.

District 100 students are participating in a variety of activities throughout the holiday season. Some of our younger elementary students made placemats for the City of Berwyn's Thanksgiving dinner where 300 meals were served to the needy. The Freedom, Piper, and Pershing choir groups will be performing at senior luncheons in the coming weeks and students made ornaments to decorate the tree at Karasek Park for the "Deck the Depot" event scheduled for December 3rd. Please mark your calendar for this event so you can attend to see the Hiawatha choir perform at the Berwyn train station. You can also visit the park to view the artwork throughout the month of December.

Sincerely,

Mary Havis
Superintendent