One of my personal, principal goals this year is to write a monthly letter to the Dwight community. This month of October warrants more than one correspondence. As a teacher, I so looked forward to parent teacher conferences. Any questions I had about my students were answered when I met the parents. I referred to my students’ parents as “the apple trees.”

Parents are the apple trees that produce the blossoms that grow into the little apples that roll into our building each day. Some are perfectly red, round and shiny; they roll in easily and garner lots of positive attention for their easy way and outward appearance. Some are a collage of colors with the stem still attached; they wonder if they’re really ready to leave their family tree and become part of the orchard. These apples are observed, encouraged and cultivated. Finally, there are those apples that are different from the apples we typically see. We sit up and take notice and wonder how to optimize their unique flavor.

When we meet the apple trees, sit with them for a while, and listen to their messages; we understand. It is a gift to work with many different kinds of apples. A friend of mine, who makes the most delicious apple pies, told me that her secret is using a wide variety of apples in each pie. She even throws in a pear! Thank you for coming to conferences ready to share all you know about your brand of apple. Be proud of the kind of tree you are and the fruit you bear. In turn, we will harvest a bountiful crop of most incredibly delicious apples.

Respectfully,

Mimi Maniscalco

Principal