



Dwight Elementary School

2012 National Blue Ribbon School

**1600 Redding Road
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Mimi Maniscalco
Principal

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Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that I am writing a parent letter for the month of June! Time has flown by. Although time has quickly passed, we have accomplished so much this year. This spring, we had parent visits in all grade levels for both mathematics and language arts led by our incredible curriculum specialists, Jess Kensek and Karen Carelli followed by classroom visits. Many of you shared how beneficial it was to be in the classroom after the presentations to see teachers and students in action. Our students are achieving at extremely high levels as evidenced by their everyday work, district assessments and state assessments. One of the things for which I am proudest is that teachers and students consistently demonstrate their love of the teaching and learning process.

This year, we had some new initiatives and traditions that have created a warm, welcoming and informed community. First, the creation of Dwight News. Mrs. French established a structure in which every grade 5 student was involved in creating a news segment for our monthly publication. This can be accessed on our website. The five to ten-minute report is engaging and informative; but, what you can't see is the amount of work that went into each report – editing, researching, presenting, scheduling and photographing. Second, our first Talent Show in over a decade. This was a student-led initiative that gave a stage to incredibly talented Dwight students in grades 3-5. Third, Kindness Week which is another student led initiative from one of our girl scout troops. Fourth, I asked Mrs. Doherty if she would create curriculum-related experiences for each grade level that resulted in a performance piece. Mrs. Doherty worked with all grade levels and teachers so that each grade level could perform. Yesterday, Grade 1 students presented our first musical. My cheeks hurt from 25 minutes of non-stop smiling! Finally, our teachers have brought to life new curriculum initiatives and have increased and improved their communication to all of you. We are so proud of our very special Dwight community.

As the year closes, I think of the new kindergartners who will enter our doors in August and of the fifth graders who will exit in just one short week. Our fifth graders are a diverse, energetic and dynamic group of young people who will go forth and do great things. Today, I watched them swim, eat and play joyfully with one another. Their smiles and laughter demonstrated the bond that they have formed during their tenure at Dwight. As this school year closes, I have the following staff changes to share. If there are additional changes over the summer, I will send those in my back to school letter to you in the Fall.

- Mr. Gennaro Gelsi will teach PE at Riverfield School next year – He will send a letter to you next week.
- Mr. Brett Conner will be our new PE teacher – A letter of introduction will be sent in the Fall.
- Kathy Reddy will be teaching part time at RLMS
- Our Art position at this point is to be determined
- Rose Michaels, special education teacher is retiring. Her replacement is also TBD.

Thank you for your support and dedication to your children and to our community.

Enjoy the summer,

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