



McKinley Elementary School
60 Thompson Street
Fairfield, CT 06825
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Leslie C. Pearson, Principal

March 2014

Dear Parents,

Let me start by thanking everyone for your cooperation as we implement the revised security procedures in place at all of Fairfield's elementary schools. We all share the same goal of a safe school environment and your help and attention to our new procedures is most appreciated.

March is typically the month when we conduct standardized testing for students in grades 3-5 in English Language Arts and Math. In the past, this has been the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). You may have heard that there is a new test aligned to the Common Core State Standards, called SBAC, which stands for Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. This year SBAC is conducting a Field Test to help them design a "computer adaptive test" which will be implemented beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Our 5th graders will be participating in the field test March 19 - April 4 (5th graders will still take the CMT Science Test on March 18), our 4th graders from April 7 - April 25, and our 3rd graders from April 28 - May 16. **On March 5, at 7:30 pm at Tomlinson Middle School, there will be a presentation for parents on SBAC by a representative from the State of CT.** I encourage all parents to attend.

For our younger students, we have rescheduled our **K-1 Parents as Reading Partners**. The new date is March 13 with the informational meeting at 9:15 and classroom visits at 9:40.

Progress reports will be available on March 21 through Infinite Campus, for the first time. If you are not yet registered, you will have received your activation code in your Friday folder with instructions on registration. Please activate your account as soon as possible so that you are "connected" with the school and district. We will have **early dismissal on March 26, April 2 and 3 for parent-teacher conferences**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn of your child's progress and communicate goals for the remainder of the year.

Please schedule interviews with me if you have not already done so. I hope to meet with each and every McKinley family before the year is out. Perhaps you will have time to visit with me when you come for your conference with your child's teacher.

Until then, be well and let's hope we will soon be welcoming the promise of a beautiful spring.

Best regards,
Leslie C. Pearson