



Dear Parents,

As the weather improves and we all begin to feel the calling of spring and summer, I want to impress upon everyone the importance of these next two months. Each one of us has grown so much and may be feeling more comfortable in all areas - academic, social and emotional. That is a good thing, and we want our students to build on this inner confidence so that they end the year feeling positive about the next grade's challenges. This is the time for each student to be doing his or her best work and presenting his or her best self. Your support in reinforcing these goals is greatly appreciated!

I, too, am looking forward to next year and want to invite you to a special PTA meeting on May 15 at 6:30pm when I will be reporting out to you my impressions of McKinley. This "State of the School" report is based on the many interviews I've conducted as part of my entry plan. I have spoken with over 100 parents, teachers, staff, students, and members of the greater community. I will share my findings, our plan going forward, and look for your feedback. I hope you can be there to share your thoughts about making McKinley an even better school than it already is.

We look forward to enlarging our community as we welcome our new kindergarteners for the 2014-15 academic year. We will be holding two Kindergarten Visitation and Orientation sessions on May 6 (for students with last names A-L) and May 13 (for M-Z). Since the sessions run from 9:00 - 10:00 am, drop-off may take a bit longer on those days. We appreciate everyone's patience. There will be more parking available, since arrangements have been made for our staff to park elsewhere.

Our 4th graders are completing the field test of the new standardized assessment called Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and our 3rd graders will be beginning the field test on May 12. These assessments in Language Arts and Math have been completed on the computer. The tests have been challenging, and our students have risen to the challenge. We are all so proud of them!

Happy spring!