

September 26, 2016

Dear Silver Hill Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed this beautiful fall weekend...fall sure came fast! And so was the weekend, which is why this is coming on Monday!

Occasionally your child's teacher will be out of the classroom for a day or half day with substitute coverage to allow them to attend professional development opportunities during the school day. With the limited time that teachers have to meet together for an extended block of time, this allows them important research and planning time with their colleagues.

Over the past week, teachers have been attending grade level PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) for Data Days. Data Days are held four times a year, in September and at the end of each trimester. This is an opportunity for grade level teams, special educators, and our English Language Learners teacher to meet with Sue Hickey, our reading/writing coach, Daniela Murphy, our math coach, and me to review student data, determine which students will require intervention/enrichment, share successful strategies, and determine groupings within the classroom to differentiate for every student. If it was determined that your child would benefit from either reading or math intervention, you will be receiving a letter this week.

On Tuesday, teachers in grades 3 and 4 will be meeting with Rebecca Hyde, our consultant from Teaching and Learning Alliance, for professional development on Writers Workshop using the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Writing. This is a continuation from last year's work in writing, and will allow teachers to observe Rebecca and their peers presenting a writing lesson to their class, with follow up discussion and planning afterward.

Our kindergarten teachers will be involved in Data Days on Monday, and attending a Focus K2 training on Thursday and Friday. The K2 grant is an exciting opportunity for our kindergarten teachers to participate in an initiative through Boston Public Schools to bring hands on, developmentally appropriate, multi sensory approach into the curriculum. Guided play with exploration learning centers! Teachers will be receiving comprehensive training throughout the year, participating with other kindergarten teachers across the state.

Fourth and fifth graders!! Don't forget to bring back your permission slip for x-country. Practices will start Tuesday and will be held Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15 – 4:15...rain or shine. The coaches are ready!

**Planning Ahead:**

***9-27 and 9-29 – Grade 4-5 X-Country Practice 3:15 – 4:15***

***9-28 Coffee with the Principal – 6:00 - Health Services, Katie Vozeolas and Brian Curry-Krieger***

**10-3 PTO 6:00**

**10-4 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30**

**10-7 Early Release/PD Day – Early Birds dismiss at 11:15, kindergarten 11:25, other grades**

**dismiss beginning at 11:30**

**10-10 Columbus Day – No School**

**10-19 PTO Restaurant Night – Papa Gino's (11-9) and the Corn Maze**

**10-20 First ROARS Assembly - RESPECT – 9:30 (Invitations will be sent home)**