



Director's Digest

January 16, 2009

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Foxborough Regional and All Charters Need Your Voices Heard

Although recent studies, news reports, and editorials point to all of our successes in the charter school environment, our opponents remain focused on prohibiting growth and reducing our finances. As we enter the new legislative and political season, especially during these difficult financial times, the rhetoric has already begun in earnest. And, of course much of what is being said is clearly a misrepresentation of the facts.

We have a fantastic opportunity to communicate with our elected officials across a wide geographic area about the positive impact our school continues to have on our students. From academic rigor and teaching/learning for all children to our numerous service and leadership opportunities, our school and students strive for and achieve excellence. Let's not have others define who we are!

The following letter comes from Marc Kenen, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association.

Dear Charter Public School parents,

We need your help. The state's economic crisis will make this legislative session one of the most difficult for charter public schools. In addition to the reduced funding that all public schools will likely receive this year and next, we are also threatened with a statewide freeze on new charter public schools.

Despite a new Harvard/MIT study showing Boston charter public schools closing the achievement gap with Brookline, the Patrick Administration and State Legislature refuse to raise the cap on charters in Boston and other underperforming districts like Worcester, Lawrence, Lowell, Cambridge, Somerville, Springfield, Holyoke, Greenfield, and Fall River. Now the state Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education has raised the possibility of freezing new charter public schools that are to be granted in February.

We need your help to protect our charter public schools and to create more charter public school opportunities for more children. Please sign up on our website for our action alerts. You'll receive charter school news stories and calls for action. The website makes writing the Governor and your local legislators quick and easy. Keep informed. Be involved. It's your child's education.

Sign up here: www.masscharterschools.org

In a few weeks we will be emailing you to help you correspond with the Governor and Legislature in support of charter school funding and opportunity.

Thank you!

Marc Kenen, Executive Director

Massachusetts Charter Public School Association

FRCS Awarded Department of Public Health Grant for Youth Tobacco Prevention

Congratulations to our Student Life and Service Learning Coordinator, Mrs. Jamie Droste, for securing a grant to educate our students on the dangers of tobacco use. Through Mrs. Droste's efforts, the School has been awarded "The 84 Connection Campaign Mini-Grant" funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and managed by The Boston Medical Foundation. *The 84* promotes the message that 84% of Massachusetts youth express themselves in healthy and positive ways and choose not to use tobacco, and educates people about The84.org – Massachusetts' youth tobacco prevention website.

The grant is one of 30 awarded to youth groups across the Commonwealth as part of the statewide movement to engage Massachusetts youth ages 13 to 18 (or grades 7-12) in a tobacco-free lifestyle. Grants were awarded to youth groups from schools across Massachusetts.

Congratulations, Mrs. Droste, and thank you!

Child Safety Fair Coming to FRCS

We are currently working with the Massachusetts State Police, Foxborough Police, and other safety officials to bring a child safety fair here to FRCS. Based upon a similar fair this week at Gillette Stadium, law enforcement officials have partnered with us to provide a safety education and awareness program for our students.

Public safety officials will join us during the school day in early spring to speak with our students about abduction prevention and general safety, as well as to fingerprint all children. Parents will receive a digital child identification kit at no charge.

We are still finalizing the details and will announce the date and schedule once it is confirmed. Also, please know we will require completed permission forms to participate.

New School Phone System to Assist with More Efficient Operation and Direct Connections

Soon, you'll hear a different menu of options when calling the school. Due to our ever-expanding program and to better serve our families, we are introducing a new system which will allow callers to be directed to various departments and personnel.

Dial by name, attendance line, extended day, and a direct connection to the front office will still be available, however we will add a variety of options—such as connections to lower, upper, and special education departments—which should help facilitate a more efficient operation. We expect this system to be in place within the next several weeks.

Stay tuned!

- Mark Logan