



ABBY KELLEY FOSTER REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

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www.akfcs.org

May 10, 2004

Dear Parents,

You'll soon be seeing a new name for our school. At last week's meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board voted unanimously to follow the recommendation of the MA Charter School Association to change the school's name to include the word PUBLIC. Despite the redundancy, charter schools ARE public schools. Those in the media and those opposed to charter schools continue to characterize us as "nearly private schools operating outside the constraints of public education" and the addition of 'Public' will help dispel this misconception.

We have formally petitioned Commissioner Driscoll to allow us to amend the charter and henceforth be known as Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School. As soon as we receive his approval, we'll begin the slow transformation of our letterhead, business cards, stationery, and other printed materials. We will be receiving a grant to cover the cost of making the changes. Naturally, we'll use up the current supply of Abby Kelley Foster Regional Charter School items.

Remember that the next two weeks are very important ones in our academic calendar: MCAS for grades 4-10. On the back of the Upcoming Events calendar is a notice about a free on-line preparation course your children might want to explore.

Also attached to today's letter is our one-page annual parent survey which should be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday at the latest. Please make it a priority to complete the survey as the higher the number of returned forms, the more valid the survey results. The students in the homeroom with the highest percentage of returns will earn ice cream treats. We'll try to track families with children in more than one homeroom for multiple credit.

We appreciate your patience as we refine the pre-pay meal card system. We most definitely want to help any family that may qualify for free or reduced meals and will fill out the paperwork with you for these remaining six weeks. Your first point of contact continues to be Diane Mikulski, Food Services Manager at x2635.

Group picture day in both schools is Thursday, May 13. Lifetouch will be here to take the panoramic pictures of our grade levels. Remind your children to wear smiles. The order form that went home erroneously shows a *Patriotic* background. We will be using a solid color as always.

Students entering grade four are required to have an updated physical on file with the school. Families of grade three students will be receiving, via their children, a letter requesting the updated physical to be sent to the elementary school nurse by Monday, June 7th.

A few corrections from last week:

1. Candace Mason, is the Acting **Parent** Coordinator for Collaborative Services. The invitation is still open for you to attend “Different Doors to Learning” this Wednesday evening, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary library. We will be viewing the video “Misunderstood Minds,” by Dr. Mel Levine, with refreshments and discussion to follow.
2. The Field Days at the Elementary School are in **June**, not May.

Sincerely,

Doris Schroeder

Doris Schroeder
Head of School

If you require translation, please contact the school at 508-854-8400 x3681
Si usted requiere la traducción, avise por favor la escuela en 508-854-8400 x3681
Jeżeli wy wymagacie tłumaczenia, sprawniac prosze kontakt szkola przy (508) 854-8400 x3681
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