



ABBY KELLEY FOSTER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

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September 7, 2004

Dear Parents,

I suppose I say this every year, but, thanks to the cooperation of everyone involved, we had a remarkably smooth opening. Dismissal procedures and traffic flow improved daily, elementary students can already recite the classroom rules, and PeaceBuilder activities are underway at the middle and high schools. Our fifth graders, the largest class ever, are settling into their six-day, rotating-periods schedule, with hardly a moment's pause.

Our monthly informational sessions for prospective parents will begin in October. Feel free to invite your neighbors and colleagues to join us on THURSDAY morning, October 7 from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the elementary school library for an overview of the school, a tour of classrooms at the elementary building, and a time for Q & A. While we are currently at maximum enrollment, we do maintain waitlists for grades K-5 and invite students to join when an opening occurs. We are changing the pattern **just this month** from the first Wednesday to allow students to complete their SAT9s (Stanford Achievement Tests, 9th Edition) on the 6th.

Thank you for the response to last week's survey about the Monday letter and FAKS. If you haven't turned in one form per family, please do so this week. This is the last week that we'll send home a full packet to all 1100 students who are currently enrolled. Using the information from the surveys, we'll be sending the Monday letter only to those parents who specifically requested a hard copy. We'll establish an email distribution list for parents who requested to be informed via email, and the letter is available on-line and in the lobby of both buildings.

Today's attachments are about our attendance policy. In an effort to improve student attendance, the elementary school's attendance policy has changed. Specifically, the policy of assigning a detention to students who are tardy twice in one week is no longer in effect. Instead, a student will be suspended from school for one day if he or she arrives to school tardy ten times. Following the suspension, the student and the student's parent/guardian will attend a re-admittance meeting with the Elementary School Director. Note: the details of the tardy policy were described incorrectly at the new student orientation on Thursday, August 26. For further clarification, please read the policy attached to today's letter.

If you have an older student, please note the middle/high school attendance policy. There are significant differences between the elementary school and middle/high school attendance policies, particularly the hours of operation.

The August 29th issue of the *T & G Kid News* included an article by one of our fifth graders, Jazmin Hampton. Jazmin began and ended her piece the same: "I can't wait to go back to school." It's a sentiment shared by many of us. Jazmin was among the forty or so Abby Kelley Foster students who went to sing at the Democratic National Convention this July. Ms. Severin led the choirs from our school and the Seven Hills Charter School during the opening hours of the July 26th session. Our thanks to chaperones Mrs. Bermudez, Mrs. Hampton, Mrs. Morales, and Mr. Brusa for putting in an extremely long day to allow our students the experience of attending and singing at a national event.

I look forward to seeing you all at Back-to-School Night next Tuesday, September 14. The sessions begin at 6:30 and 7:00 at the elementary school and 7:30 and 8:00 at the middle and high schools. This is an excellent way for you to meet your children's teachers, hear about the upcoming year, see the classrooms, and sign up for volunteer opportunities. Most teachers also have sign-up sheets for our first parent-teacher conferences, which will be held October 12-15. Separate notices and schedules will be sent home later this week with your children with the full details for Back-to-School Night 2004.

Sincerely,

Doris Schroeder

Doris Schroeder
Head of School

If you require translation, please contact the school at 508-854-8400 x3681
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Jeżeli wy wymagacie tłumaczenia, sprawniac prosze kontakt szkola przy (508) 854-8400 x3681
Se requer tradução, por ntra em contato com a escola em 508-854-8400 x3681