



Dear Parents,

January 2018

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the second marking period. Where does the time go? Our staff and students have been busy with curriculum, programming and activities. Our fifth and sixth grade Social Studies teachers are piloting TCI (Teacher Curriculum Institute). We are getting our students engaged in the history of our country and the world at large with this highly interactive program. All grade levels have fully implemented FOSS science to align with the Next Generation Science Standards. FOSS Next Generation puts the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into practice by integrating all three dimensions of the standards: **Disciplinary Core Ideas**, **Science and Engineering Practices** and **Crosscutting Concepts**. These dimensions engage teachers and students in enduring experiences that lead to deeper understanding of the natural and designed world.

We are so proud of the work our staff and students do on a daily basis both inside and outside of the classroom. The Just Say No Club, advised by Mrs. Harer and Mrs. Staub partnered with the Lehigh Valley Hospital for a book drive recently which will help replenish books in pediatric waiting rooms at the hospital. Boxes of books and letters were sent to the hospital. Great Work Just Say No Club! There will be a school wide 100-day collection in conjunction with Connect for Community. The goal for this collection is to show our students what 100 cents can buy. The items collected will be distributed to over 40 local food pantries and social service agencies. Look for the flyer to come home soon!

This year there have been some new club offerings to students at Knowlton Elementary both during and after school. We will offer *Club Invention* as an after school opportunity for third and fourth graders. *Club Invention* is an exciting afterschool program based on the same guiding principles as *Camp Invention*. Children work in teams to creatively brainstorm ways to solve everyday challenges and enhance their understanding of essential STEM concepts. Our STEM teacher, Mrs. Plunkett, will serve as the club advisor.

Chess Club will run January through March during recess periods offering different levels of learning each month. This club was so popular it has a waiting list! January sessions are designed for anyone interested in learning about chess and looking to engage in something new. Mrs. Reber will be overseeing this club during recess.

In other news, Knowlton Township Elementary School has been selected to be an Impact School for the Fuel Up to Play 60 Fitnessgram Project for the 3rd year in a row. As an impact school, we receive \$1000 in grant money to implement 4 "plays" from the Fuel Up to Play 60 playbook. We will implement or have already implemented the following this school year: A Healthy Eating Play which focuses on nutrition education and encouraging students to make good food choices, the NFL FLAG Play which teaches students the basic skills and strategies of flag football, The Presidential Youth Fitness Play, which includes fitness assessments and fitness goal setting and the PLAY 60 Challenge Play, which encourages students and teachers to be active 60 minutes a day. Thank you Ms. Lennox for your continued support and dedication to connecting our school to Fuel Up to Play 60 opportunities.

Congratulations to Mrs. Katy Jones and Ms. Cristina Hollmann who have been selected as our Educators of the Year! Both of these individuals inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn, serve as exceptionally skilled and dedicated educators, express themselves in an engaging and articulate way, play an active role in the community as well as the school, demonstrate leadership and innovation in and outside the classroom and have the respect and admiration of students, parents, administrators and colleagues.

Be sure to head to Frank's Pizza in Blirstown on February 5th to support our 6th grade graduating class. Frank's will be donating 10% of lunch and dinner purchases. Take off from cooking and enjoy the night out. Thank you for your continued support of Knowlton Township Elementary.

Sincerely,

Jeannine DeFalco
Superintendent