

Friday, October 5, 2007

Dear Families:

We have reached the midway point of the first quarter, which provides us an opportunity to reflect on the beginning of the year and inform you of your child's progress at school. Parents can use the progress report that was issued today as a way to not only keep track of your student's progress in school, but also as a time to open discussion on expectations, goals, and areas for commendation and improvement.

Here are some ways to use the progress report:

- Talk with your child about each area reported on.
- Praise him/her for areas in which he/she show good progress.
- Openly discuss areas that need improvement.
- Talk with your child about problems she/he may be having and reasons for a lower-than-expected grade.
- Discuss reasonable expectations for the second half of the marking period.
- Don't "shoot for the moon" but do engage your child in talking about reasonable progress. A one-level improvement is doable - going from a C- to an A+ is probably not.
- Set goals with your child.
- Perhaps he/she need to spend additional time on homework. Maybe reading more is an option. Is she/he spending too much time watching TV, or talking on the phone, or on online chatting and surfing?
- Make good use of your child's progress report, and if there are questions or concerns, be sure to contact your child's teacher.

Remember, we can be easily reached by email; all Brooklyn teachers' email addresses are our last name followed by @brooklynschools.org. For example, my email address is yanku@brooklynschools.org. As always, you may leave a phone message that you would like a staff member to contact you.

Sincerely,

Alan Yanku

Some Important Dates:

- Monday, October 8, Columbus Day - No School
- Tuesday, October 9 - Staff Development Day - No School
- Wednesday, October 10 - Magazine Drive Starts
- Wednesday October 10 - Cooperative High School Referendum - Voting from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- Friday, October 19 - Dance for 7th and 8th Graders

- Wednesday, October 24 - Board of Education Meeting
- Friday, November 2 - First Quarter Ends
- Monday, November 12 - Veterans Day - No School
- Wednesday and Thursday, November 14 and 15 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- Thursday, November 15 - Early Dismissal (1:00 pm)
- Wednesday, November 21 - Early Dismissal (1:00 pm)
- Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 - Thanksgiving Recess