



Dear Families,

September 1, 2009

Welcome back! It's time for school again. Can you guess the message our clip art is sending? How does "Hands on learning" sound? And that is what we have planned...another great year with a lot of activities that provide your child with a chance to interact with educational opportunities.

I do hope your summer was fun filled and enjoyable. Since all of our students attended the summer program, I do know that many of you enjoyed museums, camping and other outdoor fun once the weather decided to cooperate.

First, I would like to welcome Julie Couture back. This is Julie's fourth year working in the Learning Center and we're glad she's with us. Next I would like to introduce you to Cheryl Washington. Cheryl has previously worked as a paraprofessional in the High School and is joining us in our classroom this year!

We are looking forward to expanding the time each child spends in their inclusion settings. I have already met with the second grade teacher, Mrs. Linda Carney to discuss schedules. I plan to meet with the fourth grade teacher, Ms. Sarah Chudzik tomorrow. After having learned a valuable lesson last year, we are planning to introduce inclusion into these classes, slowly. I would like to accompany each child on their first visit to their general education classroom so that they understand what the expectations are for each of them. Therefore, I may visit fourth grade with one child on Thursday morning and second grade with a different student the following Tuesday. I believe this may make each child's transition a little easier.



Please be aware that we have already scheduled two different nights for Open House. On Monday, September 21st the school will be open to parents who have students attending third, fourth and fifth grade only. Thursday, September 24th, parents who have students attending pre-k, kindergarten, first and second grade are welcome to join us for Open House. Please note that this information is posted on our website.

Which brings me to the next item; our website! If you have not had the chance to view the Fairhaven Public Schools web page, you might wish to take a peek. From now on, our newsletters will be posted on the web versus providing them in printed format. I will print this first letter and pack them in your child's backpack, but you will need to view further letters on our web. You will also be able to find lots of other information such as schedules and special events. Just enter "Fairhaven Public Schools MA" into a browser and we pop right up!

Finally, I always discuss what we will be covering for Big Book. Although I have not developed a complete list of topics that we will cover, I will tell you that this month we will be discussing ourselves and self esteem. Personal information will be practiced as well as discussing things like manners, feelings and the like.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns either through the communication notebook, by phone or by email.

Sincerely,
Heidi Bettencourt