



CANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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December 2011

Dear Parents,

As we approach the Holiday break, I wanted to take a few minutes to share a couple of thoughts and a little information with you about your children and our school. The generous spirit and good will of our students and community continues to impress me. Let me share a few examples.

This morning I watched our students bring over 1,200 food items out to a police van which will transport the items to the Canton Food Bank. Team 7 and Team Hybrid ran a little competition among advisories last week to see which group could bring in the largest number of items. (Congratulations to Mr. Benvenuto's advisory, Team Hybrid, and Ms. Russell's advisory, Team 7.) There was nothing to "win" except the good feeling of having helped those less fortunate. Our students had a great time in the process.



As part of our Veterans Day ceremony we sent close to seventy packages to soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The packages were filled by the students in each advisory – goodies, practical items and, most importantly, lots of cards and letters. Several advisories heard back from grateful soldiers almost immediately. A half dozen advisories decided to send their packages to Jen Dymicki. Jen went to Canton Middle School a while back (we were Canton Jr./Sr. High School back then) and she graduated Canton High School about 10-12 years ago. Her dad still lives in town. I heard from Jen yesterday and thought you might enjoy her message:

Mr. Scheideler and the entire CMS Advisory Team and Students,

I apologize for the late response but I wanted to let you know that in the past week I have received the numerous packages you all sent. I really cannot express how grateful I am to all of you and the many people that donated all that you sent. I am really at a loss for words. I am so lucky to be part of such a generous and supportive school and community. Everything you sent will not only be used by our Marines but we are sending quite a few packages out to the bases where the Marines have a lot less amenities than we do at our own base. While all the gifts and products were wonderful the best part has been all the letters, cards and the banners the students and staff have sent. I am absolutely touched by the support that the students, teachers, and community have extended towards myself and my Marines - we are so lucky to have people like you at home to make being away from friends and family during the holidays a bit easier.

I do want to write all the students back but please ask them to give me a little time - we got a lot of letters and notes! I attached a picture of me with all the boxes.

To you all and to your families: Thank you, thank you, thank you. I cannot express how truly grateful I am. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

v/r,
Jennifer Dymicki



Finally, I wanted to share with you an idea that a student has promoted that we will implement into a school wide awareness activity in the new year. Caitlyn Love, grade 7, was moved and inspired by what she learned on Internet Day back in the Fall. She approached her advisor, Nancy Grace, and wondered if there might be a pledge we could ask all students to take against bullying. After some research on the internet and a good deal of discussion, we have created a banner that will be presented to all the students in January. It says:

Think Twice, be Nice

We pledge to:

- ***Be kind to everyone***
- ***Have empathy for others and their feelings***
- ***Treat others the way you want to be treated***
- ***Respect others and their differences***
- ***Act with integrity***

Together we can make Canton Middle School Bully Free

After the school "Town Meeting" which will include a couple of skits, the members of each team will be given a chance to sign the banner and take the pledge. Caitlyn and her advisory designed wrist bracelets which will be given to anyone who signs. What makes this special is that it is a student initiated idea.

I suspect our students see from these couple of examples that each of us really can make a difference in the lives of those around us and that we can positively touch the lives of those who we might not even know.

Best wishes for a happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Scheideler
Principal

Important Dates to Remember:

Friday, December 23 – Holiday Recess begins – 12:00 dismissal

Tuesday, January 3, 2012 – classes resume

Wednesday, January 11 – PTO – CMS library 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 13 – Professional Development – 12:00 dismissal

Monday, January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School

Friday, January 27 & Saturday, January 28 – Peter Pan – auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31, end of the 2nd Quarter

Monday, February 6 – Incoming 9th Grade Orientation (details to follow from CHS)

Tuesday, February 7 – 2nd Quarter report cards distributed