

October 23, 2022

Dear Plainville Families,

It has been a busy few weeks in the Plainville Public Schools! I have had the privilege of observing many events and activities, including Fall Fun Festivals at both Wood and Jackson Schools, orchestrated and facilitated by Mr. Murphy, Ms. Flynn, Ms. Hoyle, Ms. DelGrosso, and Ms. Roberts-Pratt. Special thanks to many others who assisted, including head custodian Mario Viera, our faculty and staff members, and many parent volunteers. Likewise, Jackson School's Community Career Day was a success under the leadership of Ms. Durand, with many community members generously giving of their time (to very captive audiences!).

This Wednesday, October 26th, is an Early Release day, with students dismissed at noon. The district will be engaged in professional activities, with the majority of our educators participating in a study of our most recent assessment data. Not only will we be reviewing MCAS data from the spring of 2022, but we will also be reviewing the results of the other assessments that were administered to students this fall in reading, writing, and math in all grade levels. Providing our educators with dedicated, structured time to review their students' results allows them to identify trends in curriculum and instruction, and to learn more about our students' learning profiles and needs. This sort of professional engagement helps us plan the next steps for Plainville's learners, and is an important undertaking now that our beginning of year assessments have been completed.

Please note the items below, which may be of interest:

**RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN EVENT UPDATE:**

Recently, our Wellness Director (Dot Pearl) hosted an event for our parents and caregivers on the topic of raising resilient children. A summary of the event (which included Dr. Michele Borba's presentation on her book *Thrivers*) as well as some family resources can be found by using the following link: [Wellness Education Event Follow up Information](#). In addition, the link also includes a survey that parents and caregivers can use to note topics of interest for future events.

**IS YOUR CHILD THE ONLY PERSON WITHOUT A CELL PHONE?**

I ask this question, because both of my children claimed this to be true at some point in their lives! I am not promoting cell phones for kids...but in the event that you are considering purchasing your child's first cell phone (or even if you feel it is time to review the rules if your child already has a phone), you may want to check out the book called: [You Got A Phone \(Now Read This Book!\)](#). I recently learned about this book at a conference on school safety topics, and Elizabeth Englander, one of the book's authors (who is also a college professor at Bridgewater State University) was discussing the challenges of navigating phones with young

children, and this seems to be a fantastic resource. Dr. Englander, who specializes in preventing bullying and cyberbullying, partnered with another MA college professor (Katharine Covino) to write this book.

**HOUSING NEEDS:**

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has provided school districts with resources that may be helpful for any families who are seeking assistance with housing needs. A written explanation of their offerings is available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

Additional information on any of HUD's programs can be accessed online at:

[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) or by downloading the HUD Resource Locator app on your desktop/cell phone at <https://resources.hud.gov/> or by calling the HUD Boston Regional Office at (617) 994-8200.

**TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE:** The [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) offers support for households that could use assistance with financing Internet services and/or acquiring devices that can be connected to the Internet such as laptop computers or tablets. Please check the link if this is something that could be helpful to your family.

I look forward to another week of learning ahead!

Truly,

Jennifer Parson