December 11, 2020

Dear Parmalee Families,

Grit
-to have the drive, stamina and determination to push through any challenge or obstacle thrown your way until you succeed

Grit is the best word that I could use to describe the past two weeks of remote learning. Our community has demonstrated the essence of what it takes to succeed during this incredibly challenging time. I have been so impressed with our students and staff. We have been closely monitoring how things have been going over the past two weeks. I am happy to report that kids are showing up to their Google Meets, homework is getting turned in, parents are coming by school at the end of the day to pick-up/drop-off materials and assignments, and kindness in words and deeds are being spread throughout our community. I understand how challenging this year has been, but we are almost halfway through and we are succeeding! Thank you, thank you, thank you, I am so grateful to all of you.

This week we held our first virtual Kindergarten Information Night and had 18 families attend! We were all so excited to see new faces and talk about our instructional programming and our wonderful community. If you know of any families with upcoming kindergarteners, please encourage them to reach out to us, the time to register for next year is now!

Over the past two weeks, I have spent most of my time at school; the hallways are totally quiet with the exception of a few staff who are also working on-site. The only real noise we are hearing are the sounds of construction. At this point, fencing has been installed around the construction zone, staging for the crew is starting, and plans are underway to begin the demolition of the vacated temporary building (closest to the playground). We have engaged in preliminary furniture conversations and now are working on changes to student entry and exit patterns, since the walkway at the end of the sidewalk closest to the playground is now blocked. We will be sending out communication to families regarding construction impacts in the future. Construction is going to be a challenge for a few months, but I remain excited knowing how much the six classroom addition, and the administrative and kindergarten remodel will enhance the learning experience for our students, staff and community.

SecurlyHome Application:
On another note, our kids should be commended for the amazing job they have done as they transitioned to remote learning and persevered through all of their lessons, however, we are beginning to notice more students getting into chat rooms, entering websites, watching YouTube videos, and “spending time” during the school day on sites that are not related to school or their schoolwork.

We encourage all parents to use the SecurlyHome App to help monitor your child’s online “whereabouts.” Teachers are also using Securly to help monitor students during the school day,
but it is difficult for them to monitor while they are also teaching. When students are off-task and teachers notice it, they have the ability to send messages to individual students to redirect them, sometimes teachers will freeze a student’s screen to make a point that they need to redirect their attention to the lesson.

We need your help to ensure that your child is remaining focused and engaged in their learning. SecurlyHome allows parents to block websites and applications, while also allowing you the ability to monitor their online activity 24 hours a day. Additionally, I would like to mention that Google Chat is a chat room that we are strongly discouraging students from using. Teachers are not able to monitor this chat room if they are not invited into the chat. Unfortunately, students outside of our school are able to get into these chatrooms if a student invites them, for example an older sibling or friend from another school. Our staff did use Google Chat last spring, but have since abandoned the application since it is so difficult to monitor. Principals are working with district leadership to try to shut down Google Chat at the elementary level, however, shutting down an application for an entire level is a complicated process. Again, if you have not installed the SecurlyHome application we would highly encourage you to do so, here is the district communication and link for the application:

**SecurlyHome App “Custom Control” Released for Families**

In addition to viewing a student's online activity for any Jeffco Public Schools device (Chromebooks and iPads), parents/guardians can now create allow/block lists for applications and websites using the SecurlyHome App. SecurlyHome will allow parents to have more say over their student’s internet activity while the device is at home and/or while using other public WiFis, such libraries or cafes. They will even have the ability to pause all internet activity on the device, if they choose to do so. More information about this option and how to use it is available on our [SecurlyHome App webpage](#).

It is hard to believe we only have one week to go before winter break, hang in there. Next week, our interim superintendent, Kristopher Schuh, will be communicating the district's restart plan for the second semester. I know our district leadership’s administrative team is taking into account the many factors that impact the decision to return to in-person learning; we are all anxiously waiting for this decision. Please keep your eyes out for communication regarding the decision next week.

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season. This is certainly a year that I am going to hug my children a bit tighter, linger on the phone with family members a bit longer, and appreciate everything a bit more. Thank you all for being such an integral part of my life and world, I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. Stay safe this holiday season.

With love,

Ingrid