

12/04/08

Principal's Corner

It's hard to believe it is December already! We have just completed the first marking period of the school year, and report cards will be mailed home next Friday.

The end of the marking period is a time of reflection. As you review your child's report card with him next week, you will be helping him reflect on his skills, attitudes, and work habits. I hope you'll celebrate his efforts and the learning he is doing. I also hope you'll help him understand that the numbers on his report card are simply a guide. They help you know the areas in which he is on track with his learning (level 3) and where he puts forth a lot of extra effort or has natural talent. (level 4) The numbers also help you know which areas are challenging for him and require extra effort and patience, and where the teacher will give him the help he needs. (levels 1 & 2)

As you talk about the report card grades, help your child know that everyone has areas in their lives where they are challenged. Sometimes it's in reading or writing, and sometimes it's in math. Sometimes it's in athletics, and sometimes it's in music, art, or public speaking. Everyone has areas of weakness, but everyone also has wonderful strengths. Help your child recognize his strengths and then help him figure out a way he can enhance his performance in *one* area---through increased effort, and with the support of his teachers and parents.

I know the teachers are spending a lot of time this week reflecting on their students' progress and also thinking about what makes each and every one of them special.

I hope you'll use the report card in the same way---as a time to celebrate your child's achievements and effort, and as a time to think about how very special he is.

Warmly,

Mrs. Herschlein