

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

"Excellence is not a destination, but a continuous journey that never ends"

- Brian Tracy

November 16, 2009

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

One more week and then we give thanks! It has been a great semester, and I want to thank all of you for your support. In one more week we take our Thanksgiving break. I know we all look forward to the time with our family and friends. In the mean time, we will continue to do this week, what we have done all semester; provide the best educational experience possible. It is very important that your child be in school all week. I know that some families choose to start their break early, but remember that elective absences are not excused. Our goal this year is to have 97% attendance. With the exception of a tough round of flu, the kids have done a great job. Thank you again for your support.

One Other Change For Next Year – I failed to mention one other change for next year, besides High School going to a 7 period day. In order to accommodate the change in the High School schedule, Middle schools will be starting at 8:25. The end of the day will remain the same.

Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11, 2009, we held our fourth annual Veteran's Day Celebration. It was a wonderful ceremony, and our guest speaker, Colonel Donald Myles, Retired, did a great job of motivating and inspiring us all. Special thanks to Assistant Principal Elena Sanchez who helped coordinate this great event. Congratulations and kudos to Richard Gonzalez, Sigrid Stern, Brianne Woodward and the Driscoll Band, Orchestra, and Choir for their excellent performance. I also want to recognize Nathaniel Warren, and Alexander Dietrich who served as our Color Guard under the direction of Laura Scofield (former Air Force). Job well done! Our thanks to everyone who attended. Special thanks to all our service men and women whom we honor and to whom we owe so much.

Four staff and one student to receive Superintendent Awards. On Tuesday, November 17, four staff and one student will be honored with a Superintendent's Award. These five all took part in helping Mrs. Cantini, either by physically rendering aid, or by acting quickly to get the necessary help. Congratulations to our nurse, Crystal Vvlecka, our teachers, Amanda Stark, Charity Sosa, and Jeff Hines, and our student Alexander Dietrich. You all represent the best in Defender Pride.

Driscoll Percussion is the best. Last week I announced that 31 Driscoll band members were selected for regional band. That has to be some kind of a record. This week Mr. Gonzalez informed me that Driscoll

percussionists were selected for first, second, third, and fifth chair. Outstanding! No one keeps the beat better than a Driscoll drummer. Way to go!

Drama Performance this week. This week, the Driscoll Theatre Arts program will be presenting its fall performance of "A Midsummer Nights Dream." Mr. Valadez and all of the students have been working hard on this production. Please make time to come out for a great evening's entertainment. Performances are on Wednesday and Thursday, November 18 and 19, at 6 p.m.

Picture Retakes – Student picture retakes will be this Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

Basketball Season Starts. The round ball season starts this Thursday as our Defender boys scrimmage Alamo Heights Junior High. Our 7th grade will be at home and 8th grade at Alamo Heights.

As the season begins I want to remind everyone who attends basketball games at home or away, an emphasis has been placed on spectator behavior. Anyone verbally abusing the officials or students is going to be removed from the game and may face removal from all athletic events. Please let the coaches take care of the coaching and dealing with the officials. It is extremely important for us to model appropriate behavior at any function. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

The Presidents' Volunteer Service Award - Driscoll PTA is proud to sponsor the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award was implemented by the President of the United States to reward and thank Americans who inspire others to engage in volunteer service, through commitment and example. A flyer and a log to keep track of volunteer activity were sent out with the last newsletter.

Dance Clinic – On Saturday, December 5, 2009, there will be a dance clinic held at Churchill High School. The cost is \$30 per attendee, and it is open to girls from pre-K (minimum age 4) to ninth grade. Registration deadline is November 20. For more information contact Nancy Espy at 210-410-9048.

This week at Driscoll, the following events will be taking place:

Monday, November 16, 2009

Social Studies Assessment

Art Honor Society 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Social Studies Assessment

Superintendent Awards 4:15 p.m. NEEC 614

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Social Studies Assessment

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Social Studies Assessment

Student Picture Retakes

Drama Performance 6:00 p.m. Café

7-Home/8-Away

Robotics Club 3:45 p.m.

Drama Performance 6:00 p.m. Café

BBB v Alamo Hgts 4:30 p.m.

Friday, November 20, 2009

Social Studies Assessment N/A

BMX Show 2:00 p.m.

Have a great week!

Peter A. Martinez

Principal

Driscoll Middle School

Saturday, November 20, 2009

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”- Benjamin Franklin