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Dawn M. Lewis  
Elementary School Principal

John Safina  
Middle School Principal

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**January 8, 2010**

**Response to Intervention**

As you may recall, one of my goals for the school year was to establish a formal Response to Intervention (RTI) program at the Middle School. This may be a familiar concept for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, as it is similar to EOL (Extended Learning Opportunities) in the Elementary School. The "Interventions" provided are not merely for struggling students. Many of the activities will be focused around enrichment. Our Intervention/Title I program will formally start on Monday, January 11, 2010. The Middle School staff held their first data meetings on November 18th for Grades 5 and 6, and November 24th for Grades 7 and 8. These were day-long meetings in which teachers looked at each child individually. Assessment data was analyzed and the learning needs of each child were discussed. From this information, students were placed into groups. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of academically enriching activities. These will include accelerated learning activities, reading, math and writing support, and a formal reading program. These groups will be assessed and changed every six to 12 weeks. The time scheduled for these activities is during the 5/6 Grade Lab time and the 7/8 Grade Study Hall. Title One services will also be offered during this time period. Parents will be notified by the end of January if their child qualifies for Title One services. The time scheduled for these activities is during the 5/6 Grade Lab time and the 7/8 Grade Study Hall.

**No Name-Calling Week**

January 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> is National No Name-Calling Week. No Name-Calling Week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled The Misfits by author James Howe. The book tells the story of a group of friends trying to survive the 7th grade in the face of all too frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, etc. Motivated by the inequities they see around them, the "Gang of Five" (as they are known) creates a new political party during the student council elections and runs on a platform aimed at wiping out name-calling of all kinds. They win the support of the school's principal for their cause and their idea for a "No Name Day" at school. Motivated by this simple yet powerful idea, a coalition of over 40 educators, youth advocacy, and mental health organizations have partnered to organize an actual No Name-Calling week in schools across the nation annually.

No Name-Calling Week will take place during the week of January 25th at Ellis Middle School. Mrs. Farrar will be in all Middle School classrooms viewing a 26 minute movie that discusses safe ways to deal with taunting and teasing. She will then do a follow up activity with the students.

The goal is that No Name-Calling Week will help all students consider the weight of the words they use, and make school a safer, healthier place for all students.



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**Pennies for Postage** by Molly Messina and Kelly O'Brien

For the last few months, Mrs. Lee's class has been making cards, poems, and care packages to send to the soldiers overseas. Unfortunately, we do not have enough money to pay for postage. So, Mrs. Lee's homeroom is creating a fundraiser called "Pennies for Postage", a cause to raise money to send cards and care packages to the soldiers. If you have any pennies or left over pennies, put them into the "Pennies for Postage" water jugs. Our goal is to raise enough money so we can send the cards and care packages to the soldiers. It would mean oodles to us if you help.

**New Uniforms**

Our basketball team has new uniforms! They look great and the students are wearing them proudly.



**PBIS Night**

Ellis School will be holding a PBIS Informational Night on January 20, 2010 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the school. It is mostly geared toward Elementary parents who are new to the program. You are welcome to attend if you are new to our Middle School or would still like to learn more about the program.

**Upcoming Dates**

January 8 – Parent Forum, 5:00 School Library  
January 15 – Progress Reports sent home  
January 18 – No School – Civil Rights Day  
January 25-29 – No Name-Calling Week

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