

Dear Families,

Today your child brought home his/her report card. We've talked in class how a grade is not a sign of one's worth or how good or bad they are in a certain subject. It is a record of progress in a particular area. Feelings of discouragement, guilt, anger, etc. should be recognized and dealt with. These feelings are neither good nor bad. They just are. How they are acted out is what should be judged. We have talked about how to work through these feelings. Setting goals, making plans to improve, etc. are constructive and positive ways to work through these feelings. As ways of helping your child, I offer the opportunities for students to stay after school for extra help, to correct papers and even retake assessments.

Other feelings may also need to be recognized. Sometimes, with a feeling of accomplishment comes feelings of nervousness of being seen as a show-off. This can lead to a lessening of effort. The same approach may help, recognizing feelings as neither right or wrong. Then, a discussion about having humble pride in oneself can lead to later success. It is when feelings are forced on others that it can become hurtful. Another emotion that may surface is that I've done well and don't need to try anymore. This is not a productive way to look at the situation. It was hard, quality work that got you to this point and if continued, will lead to greater success. Thank you for your support in discussing these ideas with your child as well.

On another note, the students have been begging to go outside! If the most of our students have snow pants, gloves, coats, boots, etc. on a given day, the temperature is not too cold and we have time, then we may go out. I have a few extra pairs of snow pants, if needed, to borrow for the recess time.

You are also receiving a permission slip for our school to go ice skating. I understand that this trip was donated to our school and we are very excited to go!

Thank you to those of you who were able to respond to the Colonial Belle trip. We just need a rough count of possible parents and understand that things can definitely change by June!

I look forward to seeing you all next week! Thank you for signing up for times for us to meet.

Warmly,

Sue Cleary