

Dear Alderwood Families,

I can't believe it's December and we're already counting down the days until vacation!

What a wonderful first trimester we've had this year! Despite larger class sizes and a continuous stream of new families to our neighborhood, we continue to maintain the highest standards for student excellence! We've got a whole trimester of our new Houghton Mifflin Reading Series "under our belts" and haven't skipped a beat!

We spent a great deal of time in the fall months analyzing data and developing three schoolwide goals for our Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPAA). These goals are:

GOAL #1: Improve student achievement by providing specific ELA instruction in identified clusters, by grade level.

GOAL #2: Improve student achievement by providing specific Math instruction in identified strands, by grade level.

GOAL #3: The PBIS program will be implemented school wide by all staff and students in order to teach students behavior expectations which will improve student safety, develop core values, and ensure a positive learning climate.

We will begin analyzing our progress towards these goals starting in January.

We've also spent much of the fall months updating the Emergency component of our schoolwide Safety Plan. We've put many hours into training staff and students for a variety of emergency situations. We will have training by the Irvine Police Department (IPD) on January 26, 2011. Our IPD is fantastic!! They have worked side by side with Alderwood on everything from our new Parking Lot Drop-off and Pick-up plan to providing DARE education for our 6th grade students. I would like to invite parents to join the staff in this special training. So, if you have the time, please plan to join us in the MPR at 2:00 pm on January 26th.

We have much to look forward to in January! We'll have our schoolwide Awards Assemblies, DARE Graduation for our 6th graders, and our first English Language Advisory Council (ELAC) meeting for parents of children who are English Learners.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a Prosperous New Year, and remember, school resumes on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

Cindy L. Chaffee, Ed.D.