

January, 2008

Dear Buckingham Parents,

We continue to be very proud of the performance of our students on the PSSA standardized tests that are used by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to measure student achievement in schools across the state. The results of the PSSA tests are summarized and reported in order to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The attached NCLB Report Card summarizes the proficiency levels of last year's third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students in reading and mathematics.

While these tests are an important indicator of student performance, they do not tell the whole story about our school. Test scores are only one indication of the performance of our students, and our faculty continues to be very proud of the work that we see our students doing each day. As we reflect on the daily performance of our students, a few key "Points of Pride" come to mind:

- **Students in our school also demonstrate what they know and are able to do through performance-based assessments such as the Third Grade Simple Machines Assessment and the Sixth Grade Research Assessment.** In completing these complex assessments, the third graders display their abilities in creativity, teamwork and collaboration, science and mathematics content knowledge, problem solving, computer graphics, and oral presentation. In sixth grade, students display their skills in conducting research, taking notes, creating an informational paper, preparing PowerPoint presentations, delivering an oral summary, and self-evaluating their work.
- **Our students demonstrate a commitment to the world around them.** This year we formed a student council composed of students in grades 4-6 who serve as the coordinators for school service projects and programs. Buckingham students have raised money for the homeless, participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program of the American Heart Association, contributed thousands of dollars in food and supplies to Operation Helping Hand, reached out to the greater Central Bucks Community through the holiday Giving Tree, organized a fundraiser to benefit the Bucks County SPCA, recognized the contributions of our Veterans through special Veterans Day ceremonies, and supported CB Cares. In addition, many students have volunteered their time to support organizations of a humanitarian nature. **One of our school groups, the Rockin' Roots Garden Club, in conjunction with Bountiful Gardens, local scouts, and the PTO, created the lovely gardens in the front of our school.**

This year, those gardens and the plantings in the inner courtyard were awarded the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Community Greening Award.

- **Our students are highly involved with extracurricular activities offered at our school.** Thanks to the PTO and to our teachers, our students are offered opportunities to participate in a variety of activities. "Happenings" classes allow students to take courses ranging from science to sports to crafts to theater. Students may opt to become involved in the Art Expo, the Science Fair, or Reading Olympics. In addition, students may participate in the after-school FLEX foreign language program, in the instrumental music program in the upper grades, and in the fifth and sixth grade school chorus.
- **Students continue to earn individual recognition for their work.** During the past year our students have been recognized through the *Intelligencer* Editorial and Advertising Awards, the district Boomerang Award presented by the Central Bucks Healthier Community Team, poetry awards, district art awards, and individual math awards.
- **Last year our school introduced the Mighty Knight program, based upon six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.** The Mighty Knight program continues this year. Students who demonstrate the six traits are recognized with Mighty Knight certificates, Mighty Knight treasures, and attendance at Mighty Knight at the Movies. Congratulations to the many students who have qualified for these honors!

Thank you for the support you provide to your children as well as for the continued support you provide to our school. Please click the link below to review the PSSA test summaries for last year's grades 3-6 (now in grades 4-6 here and in grade 7 at Holicong Middle School) that make up our school's NCLB Report Card.

[NCLB Report Card](#)

Sincerely,

Margaret J. Solitario
Principal