



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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JANET WALLING - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mountainside Parents/Guardians:

9/22/23

It was very nice to see so many of you at our Back to School Night sessions this week! I hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s), hear about their programming for this year, and catch a glimpse of what their typical day looks like. I want to thank the staff for all of their hard work putting the evening together and for the smooth opening weeks that we have had so far! In addition to our Back to School Nights, this week has also been filled with other special events such as a very successful Field Day at Deerfield, Start With Hello Week, and tonight's PTO Ice Cream Social for students in grades K-5. As we head into this long weekend (**remember that there is NO school on Monday**), I would like to share a few other pieces of information:

- We are excited to be offering a [Parent Internet Safety Session](#) for ALL parents on Wednesday, October 4th at 7:00 pm in the Deerfield Gym. This dynamic, energetic and informative in-person presentation by Sgt. Tom Rich designed to provide tools for navigating the dangers and vulnerabilities that children face with social media. His goal is to create "teachable moments" to help bridge the gap between students and adults and open the lines of communication through education and awareness by sharing both the personal and legal consequences of misusing technology, social media, and popular apps like Snapchat, Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook and so many others. Using videos and creative solutions, his high energy presentation will lead the audience on an engaging journey, and show how the many forms of communication available today can also be used positively. More information about Sgt. Rich and this program can be found at: [Always Connected](#)
 - Sgt. Rich will also be presenting age appropriate daytime assemblies for students in grades 6-8
 - I hope that you will mark your calendars to join us for this important evening and would like to thank the PTO and MEF for co-sponsoring this event.
- At their meeting on Tuesday evening, the Board of Education approved the 2023-2024 Student Handbooks. These handbooks are posted on the school websites and have also been sent to you for review through the Genesis Parent Portal. Please take time to review these with your child and sign off on the form within the Parent Portal. Please note that you will not be able to access student grades or attendance until this form is completed. Reach out to your child's principal if you have any questions related to any sections of the handbook.
 - Please be aware that changes were approved related to the attendance and tardy policies at all grade levels as well as the code of conduct for grades 6-8.
- As a reminder, families must reapply to qualify for free/reduced lunch status annually. All forms can be found on the [Free and Reduced Lunch Application](#) tab of the District website and should be submitted in a timely manner.
- The [Electronic Friday Folder \(ELFF\)](#), located on the District website, was developed as a home for lots of information about school and community events. Please be sure to visit it regularly to get information about upcoming activities that you, or your child, might be interested in.

I hope that everyone has a nice long weekend, an easy fast for those who celebrate, and I look forward to continuing a successful and positive year with your children!

Regards,

Janet Walling