

March 1, 2015

Dear Atlantic Middle School Families,

Welcome back from an extended snow day vacation! The winter has really been unbelievable! I know that although our students may have enjoyed the snow days, they also missed coming to Atlantic each day. Given the snow day disruptions of the months of January and February, there are numerous school events and activities that need to be rescheduled (Talent Show, Grade 8 Ski Trip, Science Museum Field Trip, Spring Musical, etc.). The new date for the end of term two is March 27, 2015. Term two report cards will be distributed to students on Thursday April 2, 2015. As we return to school, it is also important to re-establish structure, routine, and classroom expectations for our students.

Our students are ready to meet and exceed the challenges ahead of them this spring. Due to the unprecedented winter we have experienced in Massachusetts, Quincy has opted to implement the alternative MCAS testing schedule. This change means that the grade 7 long composition test will now take place on Thursday April 2, and the grades 6, 7, & 8 reading comprehension tests will take place on Wednesday April 8, and Thursday April 9, 2015. Due to the loss of instructional days, Tuesday March 24, will remain a full day of school. As we make the final push to MCAS, remember that formal testing is a necessary part of the educational process. We have wonderful students who take responsibility for their learning and want to do well. We have been working as a school all year to prepare our students to do their very best on the MCAS and are ready for these assessments to begin.

As the winter weather and snow does not seem to be going away anytime soon, please remind your children of the importance of traffic safety as they come and go from school (cross at crosswalks, do not walk in the street, etc.). The months ahead will be filled with many challenges. The Atlantic staff will continue to work together to provide for the academic needs of every child. Hopefully, the wrath of Mother Nature has ended and there will be an early spring with weeks of uninterrupted learning! Thank you for your continued support. As always, please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Maureen C. MacNeil
Principal
Atlantic Middle School