

August 10, 2011

Dear Cape Elizabethans,

I'm pretty sure that this is not an officially sanctioned term for referring to residents of this community, but I am too much a fan of Shakespeare to let the opportunity pass me by. "If we offend, it is with our good will." (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) I am so pleased to have begun work as your Superintendent of Schools. The community has been welcoming and supportive, and my family and I look forward to joining the community and calling Cape Elizabeth our home.

I have spent the last couple of weeks getting to know our schools, meeting with town officials, members of the school board and town council, and school district administrators, reading lots of district documents, and, whenever possible, seeing teachers and students. I look forward to meeting members of the community—including parents—in the coming weeks at an informal gathering being planned by the school board and, I hope, at school parent association meetings and school and community events.

While what most people consider to be the real work of schools doesn't begin until our first day on September 6th, I can assure you that our schools are busy places in the summer. In addition to a wide variety of summer programs and our summer school offerings, it is peak season for school cleaning and maintenance work. Just one example of the many projects occurring this summer was the installation of new boilers at the high school. We are grateful to our custodial, facilities, maintenance, and IT staff for their hard work, work that occurs largely behind the scenes and without much public recognition.

As you might expect, teachers have also been regular visitors to the school participating in curriculum and professional development work, including this week's technology "camp," as well as setting up their classrooms and planning for their incoming students. We hope they have also had the opportunity to enjoy some healthy sunshine and time with their family and friends to fuel up for the year ahead.

The district's administrators have been busy as well preparing for the upcoming year working on a myriad of the behind the scenes tasks such as scheduling, grant-writing, and ordering materials in addition to working with their staff to plan for the school year. As a group, we have been thinking about and planning for our work on the major goal areas of literacy and developing Professional Learning Communities. The administrative team has also welcomed Jane Golding as our new Director of Instructional Support.

The district's mission is to "ensure that all of our students develop the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes to become successful individuals and citizens." This is our most fundamental work, yet it is not a simple task. As our economy

struggles, schools, like families and communities, attempt to do the same—or more—work with fewer resources. We appreciate your support of our schools and our students, and we know that, like us, you see your support of schools as an investment in the future of our country and our world.

Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility for this district. I look forward to meeting you and your families and hope you will take the time to introduce yourselves as time and opportunity allow. I hope that you find me as welcoming to you and your ideas as I have found this community to be thus far.

Sincerely,

Meredith Nadeau
Superintendent of Schools