



Thursday, November 11, 2010

Dear Elmwood Parents,

It is hard to believe it is report card time already. It has been a busy start to the school year, with many achievements and accomplishments to celebrate. You will find your daughter's report card enclosed. Please take the time to review it with her.

Parent-Teacher interviews are coming up shortly. We have introduced a new appointment system this year that should make it easier for parents to book appointments with teachers. Essentially, it's an online booking system that allows you to choose from available times to find the most convenient time slot. The system will allow you to log back in and make changes if necessary and provides a printable schedule and even an email reminder. It is our hope that this is a better way of booking appointments and we welcome your feedback on this new system.

You will also find enclosed our 2009 – 2010 **Report to the Community**. This publication provides an overview of the many highlights and achievements of the past academic year. We always make an effort to share all our accomplishments with our community through my weekly email and our Elmwood Emblem newsletter, but we thought that it also made sense to communicate our endeavors on an annual basis. You will also find details of the many Board of Governors Committees that work tirelessly to advance our mission. As our Strategic Plan comes into force, we look forward to reporting on our progress in next year's Report. We hope you enjoy reading our newest publication.

Our Report to the Community contains our **Philanthropy Report** as well as our **Donor Recognition List**. We are very grateful to the many families and friends who support us through their donations and we are thrilled to be able to recognize their generosity in this publication. There is a strong culture of philanthropy at Elmwood; our community understands what a difference their support makes. They know Elmwood School is a registered charitable organization and receives no government funding whatsoever. Tuition does not cover the entire cost of educating each student—donations help us to bridge this gap.

We held a very successful **Open House** last Saturday. We were very pleased with the attendance, with almost 50 families coming to learn more about Elmwood's exceptional academic and co-curricular program. I was very grateful to the many student and parent ambassadors who made a positive impression on our guests. We received six online applications on Sunday and many more in the days following; they're certainly eager to become part of the Elmwood community!

I should add a quick reminder that any students intending to apply for an **internal scholarship** must complete and submit their form by Friday November 19th, 2010. Financial Aid applications are also due at this time.

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Unfortunately, in order to be fair to candidates who meet the deadline, no extensions will be given. Further information and application forms can be found on our website.

You may have already received an invitation for a **Grade Coffee Evening**. Over the next three months our Parents' and Friends' Association Committee are organizing these parent socials. I am very grateful to our parents for offering their hospitality and to PFAC Chair, Nancy Greenley, for her organizational skills. We held similar events two years ago to welcome me to the Elmwood community and based on parent feedback, they were a great success. I hope you are able to join us.

In two short weeks we will be saying goodbye to **Ms. Mary Anne Caputo** who will be retiring at the end of November. During her time at Elmwood she has guided many girls through the university application process and the fact that the vast majority of our graduates (86% in 2010 for example) are offered university entrance scholarships is due to her guidance and expertise. She has also been the teacher advisor for our Samara yearbook. We will miss her dearly and wish her all the best in her retirement.

I should close by offering my congratulations to our many sports teams who have been successful this Fall. Our **Junior Tennis** team won gold medals in both Singles and Doubles at the Tier 2 city championships. Our **Field Hockey** team captured gold making them the 2010 NCSSAA Field Hockey Tier 2 Champs. Our **Rowing Crew** won a bronze medal at the Head of the Fish Regatta in Saratoga Springs, NY. Most recently our **Senior Basketball** team became Tier 1 city champions with a victory against Ashbury College. Well done, Eagles! We are very fortunate to have such a strong athletic program. Members of staff, volunteers and professional coaches play an enormous role in guiding these young athletes and I am very appreciative of their support of our program. I am also grateful to our dedicated parents who support the girls' athletic endeavors.

After a busy ten weeks filled with Ivy League applications, Open Houses, Parent Cocktail receptions, curriculum information evenings, charity events, athletic matches, a trip to China and so much more, I am ready for my long weekend. I wish you all the best and look forward to the remainder of the term.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Boughton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cheryl Boughton
Headmistress, Elmwood School