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April 15, 2015

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It finally feels like spring has sprung and, after such a tough winter, everyone at CCSC seems thrilled about the warmer weather. Our wellness and movement classes can now be seen (and sometimes heard) coming back from the park. Students are no longer sloshing through snow and slush as they make their way between campus buildings. And everyone is smiling a little more, which is never a bad thing. Spring sports are underway, with track, lacrosse, and softball preparing for season-opening competitions.

Spring also signifies that the final stretch of the school year is upon us. Included in this mailing is your child's Quarter 3 report card. This is a very significant one. We all now have a very clear picture of progress. We can compare the grades with those earned in Semester I. And for some, we must start to think about the prospect of summer school enrollment or repeating the grade. Please take time to review this report carefully with your child. Ask him or her to explain specific grades and compare them with the first term. Inquire about specific plans for improvement. And lavish praise on students who so clearly deserve it. Many have been working exceptionally hard and the results are impressive.

As you know, we wrapped up our first round of major standardized testing a few weeks ago and will embark on another round in May. Our middle school students are taking the PARCC exams for math and ELA. They are much tougher than the MCAS. We are eager to see how our students do and will work to improve our own program accordingly. Our 8th and 9th grade students will take the science MCAS. 10th grade students are capably handling the pressure of the high-stakes MCAS. And many of our juniors and seniors will sit for Advanced Placement exams next month as well. Spring also means intense preparation for Roundtables is underway. Our seniors are deep into their internships and looking ahead to presenting to the public at the exhibition to be held at Google in late May, and to walking across the graduation stage at MIT.

Lastly, I hope the upcoming vacation is a pleasant one for your child and your family. If you are traveling, stay safe and enjoy. If you're remaining local, enjoy the down time. Students will all have work to complete for every one of their classes. As I wrote to the faculty recently, we do this to keep skills sharp and so that the transition back to school after the week away is as smooth and

productive as possible. Please support your child and make sure he or she carves out quality time to complete schoolwork.

Please take some time to review the important information below:

- **Roundtable Scheduling:** All 6th through 11th graders are required to present a Roundtable in order to be promoted at CCSC. Roundtables this year will take place on June 18, 19, and 22. When your child's advisor calls you to discuss the Quarter 3 report card, he or she will confirm a Roundtable time and date with you. All students must have a parent or guardian at Roundtables. If you have any questions, please contact your child's advisor or Ms. Norris, Middle School Principal, at 617-354-0047 x103.
- **Students in grades 9 through 11 will head out to visit colleges on May 1st.** We love exposing all of our students to various post-secondary options and hope your child returns excited about what is coming after he or she graduates. Our seniors have been hearing from colleges all spring and the results are inspiring. CCSC scholars have, for the first time, been accepted to: Columbia University, Emory University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florida Institute of Technology, George Mason University, Lafayette College, Long Island University, Brooklyn Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Saint Anselm College, State University of New York at Albany, Syracuse University, University of Chicago, University of Connecticut, Washington University in St. Louis, Wells College, Whittier College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.
- **Important end of year dates:**
 - May 27 -- Senior Internship Exhibition
 - June 7 -- Graduation
 - June 15, 16, and 17 -- Final Exams
 - June 18, 19, and 22 -- Roundtable Presentations
 - June 23 -- Last day of the 2014-2015 school year
- **MBTA Student Passes:** The MBTA has extended the May discount to the student passes. For the month of May *only*, the student T-pass will be \$22.00 to renew, and \$27 for a new or replacement card.

Thank you for making time to review this letter carefully and to sit with your child and talk about his or her Quarter 3 grades. As always, do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. Happy spring!

Sincerely,



Caleb Hurst-Hiller
Head of School