



March 11, 2013

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Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

We have now finished the first marking period of the second term. It's nearly the middle of March and, before we all know it, we'll be nearing the end of the school year. As I said to our faculty recently, a school year seems to be unique in that it is both a marathon and a sprint. Every day is new and different, presenting its own challenges and victories. But success really comes from the ability to sustain the work, the effort, the commitment over nearly ten months. It's certainly not easy (and there is a reason no one actually sprints a marathon!), but I remain so proud to be part of a community – faculty, staff, *and* students – that pushes itself so hard for such good reasons. And, every so often, we get to celebrate together, as was the case the Friday before vacation with our Black History Month Assembly. As has now become tradition, the event featured student work – essays, reflections, pieces of art – music and dance performances, and a keynote address, this time delivered by Kellie Carter Jackson, a professor in the African and African American Studies Department at Harvard. We hope you join us for events like this in the future.

**Enclosed you will find your child's Quarter 3 Progress Report.** It is the first indicator of how your child has started this new semester. As I explained last time, and as you can always reference in our Student and Family Handbook, our promotion policy is different than it has been in years past. Students' Semester 1 grades are now averaged with their Semester 2 grades. We have intentionally set up PowerSchool access to show all of the relevant grades so that everyone – advisors, guardians, students – can easily track a student's status and prospects in every course. Please take some time to sit and review the report with your child; discuss what's going on in each course, and what explains the grade – both what is working and what is *not* working. You will, as always, be hearing from your child's advisor if he or she has a C- or below in any core course.

The period between the February and April vacations is a demanding stretch, with few days off. It includes the ELA MCAS (coming the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>) and a chunk of the semester during which grades are solidified. There is much going on. Here, then, are some important announcements:

**Summer School, Summer Jobs, Summer Enrichment Opportunities:**  
 We so hope you and your child are beginning to think about the summer. Ms. Barrios has been working hard to expose students to the many wonderful programs available to them. The summer offers students a



chance to do something different, something enriching, something that will impress colleges and help create a more impressive body of experience to be shared via the application. If your child is going to spend the summer working, there is information on our website about obtaining the necessary permits (look under Parent Guardian Info). And if your child is going to need to earn recovery credits in order to move on to the next grade, or would simply like to take some classes to learn new content or keep essential skills sharp, we'll soon be sending information home about the course registration process. We will again be partnering with the Cambridge-Harvard Summer Academy.

**A revised 2012-2013 School Year Calendar is included with this mailing.** State law require that we make up the three days we have cancelled due to weather, which means we will now have school through Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Final exams will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Roundtables will occur on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> (please mark your calendars). Our largest-ever class will graduate on June 16<sup>th</sup>. (It's not on our calendar, but CCSC's first graduates, the Class of 2009, will walk across stages and accept college diplomas in May and early June. We promise to capture and share some of their stories.)

**April 11<sup>th</sup> is Massachusetts Charter School State House Day.** There is always a large turnout of parents and charter school supporters from across the state who talk to their legislators. The focus of the day is on *Celebrating Charter Schools*. In connected news, a recent report out of Stanford University found that Boston-area charter schools are demonstrating the largest gains in the United States (see story on our website). We hope this comes as no surprise to you, as we've tried hard to share our recent successes, especially those connected to student growth and improvement over time. But the most recent study confirms what many of us suspected, that the quality of schooling being offered to charter school students in this area is excellent. And CCSC is proud to contribute to such results.

**Have you discovered our new blog, "The CCSC Scene"?** (blog.ccscambridge.org) Stay current with what's going on in and out of classrooms by visiting the blog. Also, we have enhanced the calendar on our website to help you stay on top of school events.

Thank you for your continued support of CCSC.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller  
 Head of School

C O M M U N I T Y



CHARTER SCHOOL OF CAMBRIDGE

617 354-0047 **P**  
617 354-3624 **F**  
info@ccscambridge.org **E**  
245 Bent Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
www.ccscambridge.org

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The Community Charter School of Cambridge will prepare a diverse student body, grades 7–12, for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship. At CCSC, all students are known well, encouraged to meet high expectations, and linked to their community through internships and other field experiences.

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CCSC can make documents available in any language upon request. • CCSC ka ba ou dokiman ekri an kryol si ou vle. • La escuela CCSC le tendra los documentos disponibles a su peticion.