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November 13, 2012

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Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

We're about a week from the Thanksgiving break, which is hard to believe. For many students and some teachers, the push from August to late November is the toughest. But, as I wrote previously, it can also be one of the most productive stretches during the school year. Thank you for everything you have done thus far this year to ensure that your child is off to a solid start.

I hope you received the Quarter 1 Report Card and took some time to review it with your child. These conversations are critical. And I encourage you to ask some tough questions: "Why is this class so challenging for you?" "What will it take to turn that grade of C in math to a grade of B?" "Why all of these homework detentions?" "What type of options will you have as a senior if your GPA does not improve?" Do involve and include your child's advisor in these conversations. We can be most effective in moving your child forward if we all work collaboratively.

We recently held our first Extracurricular Fair during the school day. About 30 clubs staffed tables in our new space on the third floor of 255 Bent Street. We are pleased to report that CCSC now offers many different options, ranging from the Outdoors Club to the Step Team to Mock Trial to spring sports teams. We're also partnering with more external organizations than ever, providing students with opportunities like The Possible Project (encouraging entrepreneurship), ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering), Open Stories (story writing with professional artists illustrating them), and CodeEd (introduction to computer programming for middle school girls). It was a great scene, with students talking with members of various student organizations and signing up for various groups. We have prioritized increasing the number of students who participate in extracurricular activities, and it was wonderful to see our students' enthusiasm in "shopping" for activities. I so hope your child found something in which he or she is interested. Or, perhaps, five different things.

Please review the following important announcements:

- Varsity basketball will officially start up after the Thanksgiving break with tryouts. Until then, CCSC is hosting "open gym" sessions for those looking to prepare and get in shape. We're looking forward to

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CHARTER SCHOOL OF CAMBRIDGE

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to cheering on our boys and girls team throughout the season, especially at MIT for their home games.

- On Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, we'll dismiss at 11:30AM for the Thanksgiving vacation. We'll head to MIT's Rockwell Gymnasium and show our spirit at the annual pep rally.
- CCSC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Data Day of the year will be held on the afternoon of December 12<sup>th</sup>. As you know, we dismiss early these days, with students heading home at 11:30AM.
- The next CCSC Open House for those interested in applying for a spot in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grade starting next year is on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you know people who might be interested, please help us spread the word. If you are applying for a sibling, the first lottery deadline is Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. And if you would ever like to come by and collect some materials – brochures, FAQs, lottery applications – for distribution elsewhere (an after school center, your church, etc.), please let us know and we'll put together a package for you.

That's it. Thank you for reading. It's important to me that we keep you updated on the goings on. Listing all of the amazing things happening at CCSC is impossible, but I'll keep trying. For more regular news and highlights of various events at the school, "like" us on Facebook. We have much to be thankful for at CCSC. Your decision to trust us with your child's education is certainly worthy of that thanks. I wish you the best during this upcoming break.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller  
Head of School

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