

**Board of Trustees**

November 2, 2016

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Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Translated copies of this letter are available at www.ccscambridge.org or at the reception desks at CCSC. Thanks for reading.

If you celebrated Halloween, then I hope the evening proved to be full of safe scares and candy consumed in relative moderation. If you did not, I hope the evening proved uneventful and stress-free. We have reached the end of the first quarter of our school year, which is both exciting and hard to believe. Your child's Quarter 1 Report Card is included in this mailing. Everyone has been pushing hard since August 31st and many classrooms have found their rhythm. Course grades at this point should accurately reflect how students are doing. As such, please take time to review them with your child. What classes are going well, and why? Which classes are proving difficult? What supports are, or are not, being accessed? We pride ourselves on providing you, as parent/guardian, with a wealth of always up-to-date information -- information on missing assignments, grades for all pieces of work (in-class, homework, minor and major assessments). We hope you monitor this on an ongoing basis and take a deeper dive, perhaps with your child giving the tour, at these formal report card intervals.

We also pride ourselves on our commitment to creating and maintaining lines of communication between the school and the home. All advisors will be communicating with the parents/guardians of all advisees at the end of each quarter and the end of each semester. These calls are critical -- to provide more context for the enclosed report card *and* to continue to build a relationship between families and faculty. If you do not receive a call in the next week or so, please reach out to either principal, Ms. Norris or Mr. Nomani. Each oversees this process and takes it very seriously.

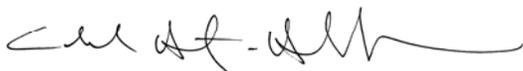
- **Student Recruitment for 2017-2018** -- Our efforts are underway. Please help spread the word to friends and family. Inquire at our front desk if you'd like a flyer to hand out. Families that apply in time to be entered into our first lottery have the best chance of securing a seat. We will be holding our first Open House on November 18th at 6pm. Applying online is simple. <http://ccscambridge.org/apply>

- **Parent Guardian Association** -- On Thursday, November 10th, CCSC will host our 2nd PGA meeting of the year to discuss College Preparedness and Persistence. We will host a panel of CCSC alumni and current seniors to discuss their experiences at home, at CCSC, and beyond in preparation for college, and struggles and achievements post CCSC. Open to all CCSC parents and guardians, the PGA was created to support the efforts of CCSC, provide resources and information to enable parents and guardians to help their students succeed, and facilitate ongoing communication with the school administration and faculty. More details on the event can be found on our website and on our Facebook page.
- **Coffee with the Principals** -- New this year, your principals will be holding a drop-in coffee hour, usually the fourth Friday of every month. There is no set agenda: these one-hour events are a chance for families to ask questions or offer ideas to Ms. Norris (Middle School Principal) and Mr. Nomani (High School Principal), and learn from other families who share their experience of having children at CCSC.. Two of these have already happened and family attendance has been strong -- thank you! Please mark your calendars for 8:45 AM Friday, November 18th. We hope to see you there.
- **Your child's advisor** will be reaching out to connect with you in the next week or so, as was mentioned above. Advisors play a critical role in our community. We hope you find your child's advisor a solid resource and advocate for your child as he/she progresses through their time with us.
- **Substance Use and Abuse Policy** -- CCSC's policy is now posted on our website. Crafted by our new school nurse, Ms. Ahmad, this policy will help guide decision-makers through situations as they arise in our community. The following policy statement is important for all stakeholders to know: *The use and/or abuse of all substances including alcohol and illegal substances, as well as the inappropriate use and/or abuse of legal substances (prescription medications, inhalants, herbal supplements, dietary aids and over-the-counter medications) in school is both a violation of the law and harmful to the educational purposes of our school.*
- **2016-2017 Schedule Changes** -- We have made the following substantive changes to our school calendar, which is posted on our website.
 - The Friday before long weekends, we will dismiss at 11:30AM.
 - We will not have school on Monday, March 13, 2017 in order to give students and staff a bit of a break during this typically long and taxing stretch of the school year.

Lastly, regardless of your political leanings or your stance on various issues, I hope everyone votes in the upcoming election. Many classes have been discussing election-related matters -- from candidate positions to the math behind the Electoral College. Our right to participate, to voice opinions through the ballot, should not be dismissed as trivial or insignificant.

Thank you for taking the time to read and process this letter. We all continue to view you as important collaborators in this work. Working together, we can continue to push students forward and support them as we do so. As we transition into the second quarter of the year, I am excited to see what we can accomplish.

Sincerely,



Caleb Hurst-Hiller
Head of School