Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the mid-point of the 2016-2017 school year. Every year is unique and special in its own right but this year I am even more inspired by the high quality work of our teachers and students as connected to our annual EL Work Plan goal. The development of student work and learning is never finite and our continued desire to and focus on creating student work that demonstrates craftsmanship, authenticity, and complexity serves our student body as they master content and skills. Many projects and products have been on display at school over the last month at Exhibition Nights, Academic Showcases, and Elective Showcases. These are special events at RMSEL as it allows parents to interact with students and teachers as tied to the work they create at school.

As shared in Field Notes, I would like to briefly revisit our Snow Delay and Cancelation Policy. We will delay school up to one hour (8:50 am start time) in the event one of our five partner school districts issues a morning weather delay. We will avoid delayed start schedules on Wednesday as we already begin late for teacher Professional Development. As a guideline, we will cancel school in the event two of our five partner school districts cancel school. These are guidelines for making decisions as related to school delays and cancelation. In the event of an extenuating circumstance, the administrative team may elect to delay and/or cancel. Our cancelations are posted on all major media outlets, under the school name RMSEL. We will also post to our website. We attempt to make all notifications prior to 6:00 am in the event of a delay or cancelation. Our team does not have the capacity to monitor all media outlets, websites, etc. and send individualized notifications.

Our first triennial District Accountability Committee (DAC) survey will close tomorrow, December 22, 2016. I appreciate the extensive response rate from our community. I look forward to working collaboratively with DAC to analyze the use of Google Classroom moving forward as a school. The team will also analyze the responses regarding the transportation fee and associated cost. Thank you for taking the survey and responding to the questions, which requested individualized comment. These comments will assist us in making improvements and decisions.

I wish you and your family the best over the next two weeks of Winter Reflection. The value of reflection is inherent in our design as it allows us to return rejuvenated for the next semester of course work. “Students and teachers need time alone to explore their own thoughts, make their own connections, and create their own ideas. They also need to exchange their reflections with other students and staff.” EL OB Design Principle #9 I encourage your child to reflect on his/her school year to this point and share those reflections with your family and crew leader upon returning to school. Enjoy the time away from school. We look forward to seeing you Monday, January 9, 2017!

Best,

Chad