Dear Northern Nation,

It is hard to believe that we have just finished the first quarter of the 2015/2016 school year. With the first nine weeks coming to a close, our Fall sports are close to coming to an end as well. We have had a great season this year and are currently in the lead to retain the Walled Lake (Shuman) Cup. Central is second and only 4 points behind us at this point. We are all very proud of our athletes not just for their impressive records, but for competing at such a high level while still keeping up with their academics. To give you an example of this I want to give a shout out to the Boys Varsity Tennis team who not only won the Division this year, but EVERY player earned the KLAA all-academic patch - EVERY PLAYER! That is fantastic and something I needed to share with our community.

The end of the first quarter also gave us the chance to see our Band, Choirs, and Orchestras perform in their Fall Concerts. We had over 1200 people attend our Band Concert this year forcing us to hold it in the gymnasium. This is a problem every principal wants to have. I continue to be somewhat awestruck with the talent our kids have. We also just wrapped up our dramatic comedy, Steel Magnolias, this weekend. I attended the Friday performance and was very impressed by the level of professionalism the cast and crew demonstrated. It is not easy to put on a play or musical that many people have seen. I thought our kids stayed true to the story but was able to make it their own. It was a very good play and I and the rest of the audience enjoyed it very much. Well done F-Hallway!

The second quarter can be a difficult one for kids to stay focused. There are many holidays and other days that students have off, so it can be difficult to stay in a routine. Help your kids by asking them often what is going on in class. If they do not have much to say, be specific and ask about the Learning Targets the teachers are expecting the kids to work towards. Even my girls, who are in second and fourth grade, do not always have much to say about school. So my wife and I press them until they say “Fine” in a huff and then go through their school day. These types of conversations are important to have with your child. It tells them that you are interested and demonstrates for them the importance of school.

Finally, I wanted to invite all of you to attend our first Coffee with the Principal which will be held this Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Center. I will be able to share how we did on our Standardized Tests we took last year. This was the first year we took the STEP testing program, and without giving too much away, I was pleased with the results. I will also share what this year’s school goals are and what we will be working on during our professional development opportunities. We will also have the opportunity to address questions, concerns and maybe even some compliments from the audience. It is a casual event and our PTSA provides a good cup of coffee, donuts and bagels. I hope to see many of you at the event.

The girls and I had much fun raking and jumping in piles of leaves this weekend. A chore that should have taken me a couple of hours to do, turned into an entire afternoon of raking and reraking piles of dead leaves......and I would not have changed it for the world. I hope all of you have had the opportunity to take the family to Long’s Orchards or spent some quality time doing some other seasonal activity during this majestic time of year.

Yours in Education,

Greg Diamond - Principal

Questions or comments? Email me at GregDiamond@wlcsd.org or call 248-956-5300