**Principal’s Message**

**May 3, 2018**

**Reading Inventory:**

We have received the end of the year Reading Inventory from the district. Students take the reading inventory three times during the school year: fall, winter, and spring. We track student proficiency and growth. Proficiency is broken down into Advanced Proficient, Proficient, Strategic at Risk, and Intensive at Risk. A student is proficient if they test on grade level. For the purposes of reporting data, the Advanced Proficient (above grade level) and Proficient categories are combined to determine a total number of students who are proficient. For the second year in a row, Churchill Jr. had the highest percent of proficient and above students of any district junior high school.

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| **School** | **2017-2018 Proficiency Percentage** |
| Churchill Jr. | 76% |
| Wasatch Jr. | 75% |
| Olympus Jr. | 72% |
| Evergreen Jr. | 69% |
| Bonneville Jr.  | 53% |

The other piece of information we look at with Reading Inventory is the amount of growth students have in a given year. In reading comprehension, it is generally easier to get more growth the lower on the proficiency scale you start. Churchill has bucked this trend the last two years by showing great proficiency and great growth. Churchill had the second highest average growth on the RI during 2017-2018 with an average growth of 85 points. Our students’ average score at the beginning of the school year was 1,034 and it jumped to 1,119 by the end of the year. Our sixth graders had the largest growth with a 106 point increase, seventh increased 87 points, and eighth grade increased 59 points. On the Lexile chart, an 1,119 is an 8th grade proficiency, and that is our average score. By the time a student reaches 11th and 12th grade, the proficiency is 1,260 and above. Our students are on the path to being college ready readers.

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| **School**  | **2017-2018 RI Average Growth (in points)** |
| Granite Park Jr. | 92 |
| Churchill Jr.  | 85 |
| Evergreen Jr. | 70 |
| Bonneville Jr.  | 69 |
| Wasatch Jr. | 45 |
| Olympus Jr. | 42 |

Great job by the students and teachers! Please make sure your student keeps reading during the summer. General rule of thumb is 30 minutes of reading a day. The number one strategy for becoming a better reader with better comprehension is to read.

**Music Festivals:**

April is festival month for the music program. All of the concert level classes have a daylong festival where they perform for judges and receive feedback, critique, and a judgement. The groups are scored on a scale with “Superior” being the highest level attainable. Our groups had a great festival season this year. Concert Choir, Concert Orchestra, and Concert Band all received “Superior” ratings in their festivals. Jazz Band received an “Excellent” rating, which is just below superior. I’d like to congratulate all the students for their work and effort this year. This is especially true for the Jazz Band kids as they take that class as a zero period class that meets before school begins each morning. A congrats also goes out to Mrs. Taylor for all of her work with the music program. She is the director/conductor for all of our music performance groups and she does a great job getting the kids ready.

**MESA:**

Congratulations to the MESA kids and Mrs. Wagner! Churchill won the district MESA competition this year. There are seven categories students can participate in, and points are awarded for the top finishers in each category. The overall points are totaled and a winner announced. The categories are Penny Bridge, Egg Drop, Write It! Do It!, Mouse Trap Car, Mystery Event, Arduino Product Pitch, and Arduino Technical Poster. The Churchill team totaled 59 points while scoring points in four of the seven categories. Our strongest category was the Penny Bridge event where Churchill teams took 1st-4th places for a total of 34 points. Bennion Jr. finished 2nd overall with 41 points, and Hunter Jr. was third with 32 points.

**Art Show:**

The Granite School District Junior High Art Show was held in March. Each school is allowed to submit up to 50 pieces of art students have produced during the school year. There are 10 categories for submission in both 3D art and 2D art. Churchill ended up being well represented. Ribbons are awarded in each category for 1st-4th places plus Honorable Mentions. Churchill students were awarded 11 total ribbons for their work. This was the second most of any of the junior highs behind Olympus Jr. Great job to our students and Mrs. Perry!

**After School:**

We are having students staying and hanging out at school after school gets out. Please remember that students should be out of the building by 3:00pm Monday-Thursday and by 12:45pm on Fridays. The only reason students should have for staying after school is if they are being directly supervised by a teacher for Homework Club, sports, clubs, intramurals, or performing arts. This seems to be a bigger issue with the 6th graders being left to hang out in the school.

**Fees:**

Class fees for 4th quarter have been added to students’ accounts. Reminders have also been sent home. Please pay fees on line or at the school with Mrs. Cluff. The school can accept credit card, check, or cash in the main office.

**Facebook:**

I will continue to encourage everyone to follow us on Facebook. If you go to the school’s website, schools.graniteschools.org/churchilljr/, and click on the Facebook icon in the upper right corner, you will be directed to our official page. Once on our Facebook page, you can click “Like”. Facebook will be the number one source for getting immediate updates and information about what’s happening at school.

**Student Drop-Off:**

Please use the student drop-off area on the west side of the school. The bus zone on the north end of the building and the east parking lot are not good drop off zones. With the construction on I-215, the bus has been getting to school at irregular times and we need to have the zone clear so it can pull in and drop off students. Using the east parking lot as a drop off blocks the faculty parking stalls and puts students at risk because many of them walk through that lot as they come to campus from the neighborhoods.

**Important Dates:**

May 7-11 Math SAGE testing

May 7-11 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7 SBO Election process begins

May 8 Community Council Meeting, 1:30pm

May 9 Track Meet at Olympus High

May 9 Band Concert, 7pm

May 11 All library books due to library

May 15 8th grade Panoramic, 11am

May 16 Fine Arts Assemblies (Music and Dance programs)

May 16 Pioneer Theatre Play Field Trip

May 16 Girls’ District Track Championship

May 17 Awards Assembly, 9:15am

May 17 Boys’ District Track Championship

May 17 Dance Concert, 7pm

May 18 8th grade Physics Day at Lagoon

May 18 SBO Skit Assembly, 1st and 2nd periods

May 18 SBO Voting, 3rd period

May 18 Dance Concert, 7pm

May 21 PBIS Movie Reward for students who qualify

May 22 COW Assembly, 1:45pm

May 23 Yearbook Day

May 23 8th Grade Promotion Party, 6pm

May 24 8th Grade Refunds

May 24 Last School Day for 8th Grade

May 25 6th and 7th Grade Refunds

May 25 School out before lunch; lunch WILL NOT BE SERVED

Sincerely,

Josh LeRoy

Principal