



SKYLINE elementary school

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Dear Parents:



In the Wednesday envelope today you will find your child's report card. Report cards are an important part of the communication needed to help parents and students evaluate progress and attitudes. As you respond to your child's report card, I invite you to reflect on the following ideas from the National Institute of Education.

Is Success Related to Effort or ...? Many students look at their report cards and believe that outside factors control their successes and failures -- for example, teachers, basic intelligence or luck. While it is true that these factors can affect success in school, children often exaggerate the role these factors play. They tend to ignore their own **responsibility** for their successes or lack of success. As parents, you can help them accept the fact that the amount of **effort** they exert determines whether they succeed in school. As you review the report card, ask your children **what are their strengths and what are their challenges**. Then try to help them realize that the hours they spend in studying or the amount of work they do will make the difference between success or not. Motivating your children to succeed in school means helping them realize that **they** can improve their school performance if they work at it.

We know that our children have different abilities and strengths. **Speak first to your child's strengths.** Applaud his/her success. For areas of weakness you can brainstorm ways to motivate your child to use more effort. Motivation is dependent on student interest and the feeling of success. Focus on the child rather than the accomplishments or comments on the report card. Statements like, "**You must be very proud of yourself**" encourage students to work for internal rewards. If your child has not progressed to the level s/he is capable of achieving, speak in terms of the choices s/he is making. Children

sometimes see themselves as having little control over their learning. They may miss the relationship between the choices they make and their own learning. You can help them see that success typically is a result on the choices they make. Success builds competence and competence builds positive self-esteem.



Mr. B.

Thanks For Giving!

Because of the **wonderful generosity of the Skyline students, parents and staff**, our PTA was able to deliver twenty-six Thanksgiving dinners to families in our community. Thank you for the tremendous outpouring of support. Many hands make light work and this was truly a team effort. I would especially like to thank **Jo-Ann Sickles and Susan Rieck** for the amazing energy they devoted to this project.



Happy Holidays

The staff joins me in wishing you a wonderful holiday season. We hope you find time as a family to enjoy the music, the lights, your own household traditions and the special contributions that each member of your family brings to your home.



Upcoming Events



- 12/10 Report Cards come home today
- 12/12 PTA Family Craft Night 5:00 PM
PTA Family Movie Night @ 7:00 PM
- 12/19 Pajama Day!
Skyline Holiday Sing-a-long 2:15 PM
- 12/20 Winter Vacation begins! (No hay escuela)
- 1/1 Happy New Year!
- 1/5 Back to school!