



Tim Adams  
Principal

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## Greetings from the Principal

The Falmouth Public Schools Administrative Council has been engaged this year in several book studies to enhance our professional capacity and create an ongoing dialogue about important issues that have a wide impact on the system. The first book we read this year has been a personal favorite of mine for many years and I was thrilled when our superintendent, Dr. Lori Duerr selected it. The book, *Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times* by Donald T. Philips takes a deep look into what made our 16th president such an effective administrator during one of the most difficult periods in our country's history.

Thankfully, my job is a lot more manageable than what Mr. Lincoln faced when he took office. Still, studying his leadership style has helped to shape my own and, I hope, has had a positive impact on the school community here at North Falmouth. While I try to incorporate many aspects of Lincoln's leadership style, one general strand stands above all and still surprises me with its power.

The beauty of this trait is that it doesn't require complex planning or advanced technology. Instead, it is simply the willingness to be amongst people. Lincoln loved to share stories with his cabinet members to illustrate a point and he frequently was out of his office circulating amongst government officials and soldiers in the field. He also was an early adopter of the open-door policy, often meeting with scores of ordinary citizens each day. Lincoln sometimes referred to his time with people as "public opinion baths", which he believed were necessary for gaining the knowledge for making successful decisions.

I was also lucky enough to see this kind of leadership in action personally and can attest to its effectiveness. Growing up, the president of my father's company, Sippican, Inc., could often be seen all over the many buildings on the campus cheerfully talking with dozens of employees. What impressed many people the most was that he knew your name, your spouse's name, and all of your children and would stop to ask about their lives. He would even stop to say hello to me anytime I saw him around town, whether I was with my father or not. In short, he cared. Thank you, Richard Arthur, for giving me this great lesson in leadership and being my modern Lincoln.

Studying the lives of exemplary people, in all fields, is a great education. I hope that our students take the time to explore the biography section of our libraries to find their own heroes and the wisdom they can provide. I recently borrowed a historical fiction called *Lincoln and His Boys* by Rosemary Wells to read to my son. *Based upon primary source documents, this book paints a beautiful portrait of Lincoln not as a national leader, but as a loving father who was way ahead of his time when it came to parenting style (sometimes to the annoyance of his colleagues!) With some time off from school coming soon, I encourage everyone to share examples of people who have shaped your lives with your children.*

I hope that you all enjoy this holiday season and upcoming vacation from school. All of our students should be very proud of their tremendous efforts during this first half of the school year. I look forward to seeing the heights they climb in 2019!

**Reminders!**

December 12 - Elementary Choral Concert @ FHS

6:30-7:30

December 19 Grade 4 Music Performance 6:30 p.m.





### PLEASE JOIN US!

**ALL KIDS CRAFT FAIR**—The annual 3rd and 4th grade All Kids Craft Fair was held on Wednesday, December 5. All items for sale were handmade by our 3rd and 4th grade crafters. The students voted to sponsor two worthy causes. The Boston Children’s Hospital and the Friends of Falmouth Dogs. This is a wonderful North Falmouth tradition!



**TOYS FOR TOTS** drive began December 3 and will run through December 20. Mrs. Edgar’s class will be collecting new, unwrapped toys and books for this U.S. Marine Corps Reserve sponsored program. **THANK YOU** in advance!



**Canned Food Drive**—Thank you very much to everyone who helped us collect and donate 241 non-perishable food items to the Falmouth Service Center.



**LOST AND FOUND** - All lost and found articles will be taken to charitable organizations on December 21.

**Please**, if you have missing items come in and look through our collection. You will find the lost & found in the cafetorium. You are welcome to come anytime to search for your lost items.

### REMINDERS!

**BRINGING ITEMS TO SCHOOL**- If you need to bring an instrument, lunch, or dismissal note to school for your child, please buzz in letting them know why you are at school. Please stop at the office and leave it there, with the item labeled with who it belongs to and who their teacher is. The staff will make sure it gets to your child. Instruments are to be left on the office counter and students should check the counter at the end of the day to retrieve their instrument. If your child has forgotten his or her instrument, calls home are not made. Students who forget their instruments are expected to attend their lesson without their instrument.



### REMINDERS! continued

**\*DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER** - We head outside for recess every day possible! With the cold weather upon us, please be sure to dress your children for the outdoors. Please have your children bring a coat, hat, gloves and boots when it is necessary. It is also important to label everything, so that items may be retrieved and/or returned to you if they are lost.



**\*REPORT CARDS** will be sent home on Friday, December 14.

The 2018-2019 winter season is fast approaching. School and town officials monitor weather and road conditions. If conditions are severe enough to place students’ safety at risk while traveling to and from school, a decision will be made by the Superintendent at 5:30 a.m. to close or delay the opening of schools and she will make a ConnectEd message to parents/guardians. You may also listen to the local TV or radio stations for that announcement. The administration building number, (508) 548-0151 will have a recorded announcement providing information by 6:00 a.m. **Please do not call the Police or Fire departments for information on school closings.** To clarify the policy on delayed openings: all school and bus times will be two hours later than the regular starting time which would be 11:05 a.m. at North Falmouth School. School will end at normal times. All other school activities will take place at their regularly scheduled times unless otherwise noted. Students are not to be on the school grounds until 10:50 AM. YMCA will **NOT** be open in the morning. In the event of severe weather conditions once school is in session, early dismissal of students may be made. Radio stations will broadcast this news at least one hour in advance of dismissal. Parents must have a back-up plan for their children in case no one would be at home. YMCA will **NOT** be open on early dismissal days.



**December Break begins at the close of school on Friday, December 21. School will reopen on Wednesday, January 2.**