

SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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EDUCATE ALL CHILDREN TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL

August 10, 2010

A message to the families of South Windsor Public Schools...

I had planned to send families a welcome back letter at the end of August, but I feel it is important to communicate with you now regarding the tragic events that occurred on August 3, 2010. South Windsor students, families and staff members have been directly and indirectly impacted by the heartbreaking losses sustained at Hartford Distributors. It will take time for our community to heal as we attempt to process this incomprehensible tragedy. When students return from summer break please know our staff will make every effort to identify those in need of support and facilitate the healing process. We will need to support both our kids and our adults as countless individuals have been affected by this tragedy. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you or your children are in need of assistance.

The heartbreak of recent events serves as a reminder that we should take time to appreciate the small things and to find joy in our daily activities. Whether your children spent the summer catching fire flies or catching waves, reading chapter books or reading college brochures, I hope that their days were filled with love and laughter. My message to staff upon their return from summer break will encourage them to find joy in our daily interactions with students—a reminder that schools should be magical places for children. I believe that one of the most important qualities we model for children is kindness. My resolve to send that message is only reinforced by recent events. We look forward to partnering with our parents to continue providing not only an exemplary and rigorous education, but one that supports the whole child.

While I write this letter with a heavy heart, I also know that brighter days lie ahead for us. Educators and students are fortunate to follow a calendar that offers recurring renewal and the perennial promise of a new school year. As we begin a new chapter for South Windsor Public Schools, please know I do so with humility, feeling privileged to lead this district and the dedicated staff and parents who make this system a special place for our young learners.

As we plan for the future of our school system, I look forward to leading the district in a strategic planning process throughout the upcoming academic year. Your input will be essential and your voices will be valued in this process. Plans are underway for a series of district wide community conversations regarding our collective vision for moving our schools forward. I am eager to hear your hopes and dreams for the future of South Windsor Public Schools.

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Mrs. Maneeley, Board of Education Chair, has asked me to invite families to a "Meet the Superintendent" event on Tuesday, September, 7th from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at South Windsor High School. This is a very informal event and I hope that parents and students will stop by to introduce themselves. I am looking forward to meeting you and your children.

May the remainder of your summer be filled with time for family and friends.

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KATE CARTER". The letters are in all caps and have a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Carter, Ed.D

Acting Superintendent of Schools