

January 13, 2023

Good afternoon, POB School Community.

The first two weeks of 2023 were met with more excitement for POB Schools. The community and alumni were treated to an impressive night of music from the various a capella groups; the parents of incoming freshmen attended the 9th Grade Parent Orientation presentation, our SEPTA hosted alumni from all of the District's special education programs to share their successes since graduating, and we were informed that POBJFKHS has two [Regeneron](#) semifinalists.

Our talented middle school performers will be the next to entertain and impress the community with this year's POBMS musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, which will be performed on February 3rd and 4th. Do not miss the opportunity to bring your younger children to enjoy this magical story and to see what opportunities await them in middle school.

These next few months will also bring news of faculty, staff, and administrators that have made the decision to retire. This is always bittersweet for us. I encourage you to reach out and share any positive experiences you have had with beloved and well-respected teachers.

Mr. James Murray, Principal of POBJFKHS, is one of our administrators who has made the decision to retire at the end of this school year. He came to POB Schools 20 years ago and has served as the principal for the past 18 years. The District understands that the responsibility of finding his replacement is great. We will involve all stakeholder groups in the process. You can expect to see an advertisement in the February 5th *New York Times*; but until then, please join me in congratulating Mr. Murray. Feel free to share with him any comments that let him know how much his leadership has meant to you and your children.

Lastly, schools are closed this Monday in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This day provides us another opportunity to reflect on how we all contribute to [His Dream](#). Dr. King shared his birth year with another person whose life and death continues to impact people all over the world, Anne Frank. For parents of younger children, I highly recommend [Martin and Anne: The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary O'Meara

Superintendent of Schools