January 10, 2020

Dear Wilkins Community,

Happy New Year! It is almost surreal to think that we are already in the year 2020. A new year always brings the promise of new beginnings and renewed commitment to our goals.

We have some exciting things planned for 2020. Elly Swartz, author of *Smart Cookie, Finding Perfect and Give and Take*, will be visiting our school to work with third, fourth and fifth graders. She will be referring to her book *Smart Cookie* as she explains her writing and revision process. Students in these grades will benefit from both an assembly, as well as more individualized time during our school lunches.

The SEED Waves Residency Program will also be working with Grade 4. Dr. Bless and Dr. Pearl will teach and model waves lessons in every fourth grade classroom across the district. A different waves lesson will be taught each day during the last week of February. Students will conduct experiments to investigate multiple wave models. They will also learn about the different waveforms and that energy travels through waves in regular patterns of movement.

Students in grades k-2 will be participating in the University of Massachusetts Amherst Extension Nutrition Education Program. Trained nutrition educators will be providing a series of six nutrition lessons to these students. The lessons will not only teach valuable nutrition information, but also help build life skills that make a real difference. Lessons will focus on the importance of eating healthier foods and on ways to incorporate more physical activity into a daily routine.

We are also very excited to be partnering with the Stoughton Branch of the Old Colony YMCA this winter. We are piloting their Water Wise Program with all of our second graders. Each Tuesday for six weeks, all of our second graders will spend their morning at the pool at the YMCA learning about water safety and drowning prevention techniques.

There truly are many wonderful opportunities that lie ahead for all of our students. 2020 is looking to be a promising and productive year.

Blessings,

Mrs. Monahan