



Taunton Forge School
Future Leaders Begin Here

THE TIGER TIMES
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

February's core value is CARING. The Taunton Forge family demonstrates this value really well throughout the year and I encourage everybody to continue to model this value by caring for oneself and others!

In the spirit of caring, I would like to remind all room parents that we are trying to promote service projects and helping others for the Valentine's Day celebrations. The projects need not be elaborate or time consuming. They can be done by an individual class or by an entire grade level. It's a great way to give back to our community. Contact your child's teacher or me with questions. Our Valentine's Celebrations will take place on Wednesday, February 14. I would love to know about the activities you are doing to share on our social media accounts.

Please make note of the following special dates in February and one upcoming day in March:

- **Thursday, February 15** – Early Dismissal Day for Parent-Teacher Conferences. (NOTE: Not all parents will be invited for a conference. Invitations are at teacher discretion or if a parent requests a conference.) Dismissal will begin at 12:25 p.m. Lunch will NOT be served.
- **Friday, February 16** – School is closed for students due to a Teacher Professional Development Day.
- **Monday, February 19** – School is closed for Presidents' Day.
- **Thursday, March 15** – 2 hour delayed opening for Teacher Professional Development. All students report to school two hours later than their regular time. Lunches WILL be served.

I encourage you to support the Medford Education Foundation's Dine Out for Education event on Tuesday, February 6 and the Home and School Association's Harlem Wizards vs. Faculty basketball game on Wednesday, February 21 at Shawnee High School. Additionally, I hope you can attend the Home and School Association's Casino Night on Saturday, March 3. Look for more information to come home regarding all of these events. Proceeds for all of them directly benefit our students and schools. Information will be sent home via email and hard copy with all students. If you have any questions about these events, please call our school office at 609-654-6723.

I want to invite any and all Taunton Forge parents and guardians that have volunteered or intend to volunteer at school to our Annual Volunteer Luncheon on Wednesday, February 21. Lunch will be served from 11:15 until 1:30 in the library. You may stop by at any time during this window. Come chat with staff while enjoying delicious food. This is our way of saying, "Thank you!" for all that you do for our school. More information will be sent home soon.

Last, I want to share exciting news with you. Taunton Forge has a newly created vision statement. The creation of the vision statement was facilitated by our School Leadership Committee and the Taunton Forge staff. We worked to build a statement that accurately captures the feeling and environment that Taunton Forge staff strives to create every day. Our vision statement is: **TAUNTON FORGE: Future Leaders * Supportive Family * Lifelong Learners.** Our next step is to create a Mission Statement which provides a more detailed explanation of how we will achieve this vision. Look for the vision statement to slowly begin to pop up on school walls, on letterhead, and on spirit wear! We are very proud of this vision statement and all that it stands for. We also realize that achieving our vision would not be possible without the support of our parents and guardians. We are grateful for your support!!

Should you have questions, concerns, or suggestions please call me at 609-654-6723, extension 5445 or e-mail me at rlacovara@medford.k12.nj.us. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Rich Lacovara
Principal