



igniting your purpose!

February 7, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have an ambitious schedule leading up to the February Vacation as you can see in our *Calendar Dates to Remember* window. Please make note of these dates on your calendars.



First, we wish to thank Mrs. Barton, the mother of one of our students, who capped off our humanities unit on Ancient Eastern Cultures on Friday by sharing her experiences as a year-long resident of

Japan. The story of her experiences clearly made an impression on our students as many referenced her anecdotes in their essays on Eastern Cultures!

On Thursday, 2/13, our students will be building beds for children throughout the Greater Manchester Area. They will do so in their cohorts, alternating bed-building time with their Spark classes. You are all invited to join us and share in the experience. Simply let Mrs. Larochelle know that you are planning to participate so that we can give you the time involved for each cohort. Working along with your son or daughter on a service project, especially a school-related service project, is a great way to bring home, school, and service together for lasting memories. We would love to have you join us if your schedule will allow. We have also asked if our students will be allowed to participate in the delivery of beds so as to help our students experience directly the value of this project and the fact that we, as individuals, can do much to improve the lives of others. We want to thank those of you who have already helped us by contributing funds for materials. We will let you know when delivery will be planned and will have a permission form for you to sign if you would like your student to be part of the delivery of the beds.



Calendar Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, 2/11 - No School - Presidential Primary Day - Teacher Workshop
- Thursday, 2/13 - "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" Project, 10a to 3p — Parents & Guardians Invited
- Saturday, 2/15, & Sunday, 2/16 - VEX Robotics VT & NH Combined Championship @ MCC
- Monday, 2/17 - No School - Presidents' Day
- Wednesday, 2/19, 6:00 - Information Night for Prospective Families
- Monday, 2/24 to Friday, 2/28, February Vacation



Please consider helping us on the weekend of Saturday, 2/15, & Sunday, 2/16, when we host an important regional Robotics tournament. This tournament is certainly important to our teams; however, it will also be an important means of getting information out about our school as we will have students and parents from many middle schools participating in the event.

Now that second quarter and semester grades have been sent home, please remember that we are always happy to meet with you to discuss your student's progress and needs for further success.

Finally, several of us were invited to a presentation from MIT on Wednesday, entitled *The Work of the Future: Shaping Technology and Institutions* at the DEKA/ARMI facility, and hosted by Dean Kamen. The presentation was based on an important study led by Elisabeth B. Reynolds, the executive director of the MIT Industrial Performance Center and a lecturer in MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning. This project and the report resulting from it provide very interesting insights as to the current and future needs of the U.S. workforce, especially



in terms of the role which technology will play in the lives of our students. This was also an opportunity to hear the perspectives of several workforce and education representatives as they reacted to the report.



There is much more that we wish to learn from this study and from the work of this task force overall and will pursue further contact with this group



and those affiliated with it. One of our *take-aways* is that Spark Academy is certainly one of the models which will provide students with a pathway toward meaningful work in the future. The entire report may be accessed at [www. workofthefuture.mit.edu](http://www.workofthefuture.mit.edu). Please do not be deterred by the length of the report. Though complex, it is very well written and worth the time required to read.

Yours in the future of our students,

Denis Mailloux
Spark Academy Director