

All Star Families,

Happy New Year to you! I hope that your holiday season was a lot warmer than what January has provided us so far!

January is also the time for the second round of NWEA assessments. Students in grades Kindergarten through 6, will be testing from January 3<sup>rd</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Currently students are being tested in Reading, Mathematics, and Science. I am anxious to see the growth that the students have made since September. It is no secret that NWEA results show that Beacon Tree Elementary students outpace district and national norms on a regular basis.

January also marks a time for me to be in classrooms observing staff and the creativity they utilize to instruct your children. This is a time for me to actually see the learning process in action. There are some wonderful opportunities that are happening in our classrooms throughout Beacon Tree Elementary. I look forward to being in the classrooms and talking with students about what they are learning and why it is important. Each child provides me with their own unique response that makes me feel proud to be a part of Beacon Tree Elementary.

Yearbook sales have been ongoing and there is still time for you to reserve yours now! Our yearbook team has been working hard on creating a book that will capture the year perfectly! If you have not purchased one yet, you still have time. If you need a new order form, please contact the office and we can get you one.

January is designated as National School Board Member Recognition Month. We, in Utica Community Schools, are fortunate to have such supportive, dedicated, and caring School Board members. I am very comforted that each member of the Board places children first! You can be assured that any and all decisions made have our student at the epicenter.

I hope that your 2017 is off to a great start, and the year continues to provide wonderful opportunities for you and your family. Thank you all for placing your children first, and allowing us to educate your most precious possessions!

Happy New Year!

All The Best,