

An optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day.

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It was another great weekend. In addition to a fun family bike ride, I introduced the girls to poker. The idea of snagging Dad's money was a real motivator to learn the game. It didn't take long for them to take possession of the change in my coin jar. We'll see how well they do after I introduce them to bluffing!

At the beginning of the school year, the teachers remind all students that they should not bring valuable items, such as a CD Walkman, large amounts of cash, jewelry, etc. to school. None of these items are necessary at school. If, however, they do bring them, the students are told to keep them in their lockers. Although we make no promises that these lockers are tamper proof, they are relatively secure.

The reason I am raising this issue is that there have been a few security problems in the boy's and girl's locker rooms. When the locker rooms were designed, a decision was made to not install lockers and instead create a more open space with cubbies and hooks for clothing. While this approach did indeed provide more space, it also created a security issue. Specifically, students do not have a way to lock up their valuables. Accordingly, they are told to keep them in their hall locker, not the gym locker rooms.

Although the PE and coaching staff do a great job of monitoring the locker rooms and keeping them locked when kids are not changing, there have been a few incidents of theft. We are investigating and hope to find the missing items. With that said, we need everyone's help. Parents, please remind your children that the easiest way to avoid the loss of valuable items is to not bring them to school in the first place. If these items must be brought to school, it is imperative that they be left in the hall lockers, not in the gym locker room. Working together we can maintain a safe and secure school.

As you may know, conferences are just around the corner and the vast majority of parents who requested conferences were able to have their requests met. What you may not know is how much work scheduling these

conferences entails and that the work was completed by parent volunteers. It is an amazingly time consuming and complicated task and I want to take this opportunity to thank the parents who made this year's conferences happen. Thanks to: Debbie Fecher, Judy Gaughan, Liz Horber, Kate Trainor, Rose Saia, Debbie Namias, Donna Bottari, Laura Brock, Karen Noriega, and Beth Petr. Special thanks goes to Debbie Namias, Donna Bottari, Laura Brock, Karen Noriega, and Rose Saia for spending an incredible amount of extra time scheduling the 8th grade and 7Blue World Language conferences. We couldn't have done it without you!!!!

Starting last Friday afternoon, the mold removal process began in room 311. As I was leaving the building, the carpet was being ripped out and the sheetrock was being removed to expose the contaminated insulation. If all goes according to schedule, the room should be safe to be re-occupied after the Thanksgiving break, perhaps as soon as Monday.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving.