Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School
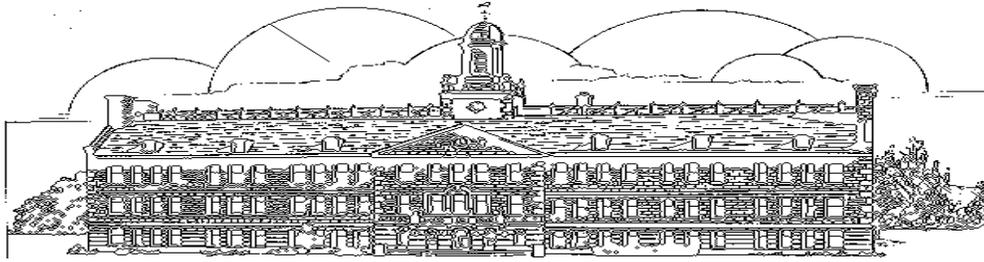
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Lisa Ruud	**Mark Brenneman**	**Ian MacCormack**
Associate Principal	**Principal**	**Associate Principal**

January 25, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Did you know that regular school attendance is one of the most consistent predictors of a student's academic success? Students with regular attendance often have higher grades, higher reading levels, higher test scores and better overall learning outcomes. Regular attendance starting as early as kindergarten can be a predictor for lower high school dropout rates, too.

Based on our recent attendance data, we would like to remind you of the importance of regular attendance--**even on days when we have delays due to weather.** We understand that some situations require absence (such as illness), however a weather delay should not prevent a child from attending school. Even though the school day is shortened, there are still important lessons and work to be done.

Missing too much school, **especially during the elementary years**, can significantly hurt academic performance and growth. Missing more than 10% of the school year (18 days or more, or just two days every month) is considered "chronic absenteeism," and it can have significant academic consequences for children in all grade levels. In the United States, it is estimated that 5-7 million students are chronically absent. It is clear that chronic absenteeism is a national issue, affecting school districts across the country.

Attendance is extremely important to the academic growth of children and their development of positive attitudes toward school. We all play a critical role in maintaining regular school attendance and preventing chronic absenteeism. Together, we can help our children develop positive attitudes toward school and keep them on the path to academic success.

Sincerely,

Mark Brenneman, Principal
Ian MacCormack, Associate Principal
Lisa Ruud, Associate Principal