

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
MCCLURE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
600 W. HUNTING PARK AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19140**

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Principal

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Dear McClure Families,

As we enter the holiday season, we want to reinforce the importance of school attendance. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after winter break as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to break that cycle. Please be reminded that absences due to vacation and travel will not be excused. This holiday season, the best gift you can give your child is a good education. And the best place to get that education is in school.

We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. We also know that attendance is a habit that children should learn early on if they're going to succeed in school and eventually on the job.

We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families far away. But keep in mind the costs to your children's education if they miss too much school—and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until winter break starts at **3:09 p.m. on December 23, 2014** and as soon as school reopens at **8:30 a.m. on January 5, 2015**.

You can help us convey that message. Give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance. Thank you, as always, for your support and happy holidays to all of our students and families.

Sincerely,

The McClure Attendance Committee