

# PRINCETON REGIONAL SCHOOLS

JUDITH A. WILSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS • 25 VALLEY ROAD • PRINCETON NJ 08540 • (609) 806-4220

August 24, 2009

Dear Parents:

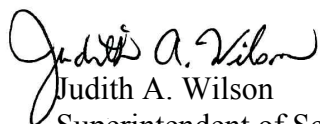
It is time for the busses to roll and school bells to ring! Whether or not you are mentally or emotionally ready for summer to ease into fall, I have no doubt that you have thought about “preparing” your children for school. Depending on their grade levels, that might mean a new pencil box, a cool backpack or the latest graphing calculator. Most likely it also means the oft dreaded back-to-school clothing trip. (I did that last Friday with my sixteen year old son and might not ever again. Hagglng over jeans and sweatshirts made negotiations and budget preparation look easy!) What I ask you to consider now is the *real* preparation: the conversations about mindsets, expectations, dreams and goals.

While peer pressure is powerful at every age level, the greatest influence on your child’s education is *you*. Being the “great influencer” is a full-time, year-round role, but the opportunities that abound in the next few days are ripe with potential for creating just the right family start to the school year. Please be purposeful about asking your children, children at *all* stages of their PK-12 education, what they are hopeful about, what goals they want to set for themselves, what worries they might have. Reinforcing their developing interests and discovering hidden talents should all be part of these conversations. Mostly, I ask that you step back and look at your child through new eyes. That is no easy task as our views of our children often lag as they speed from one stage to the next!

This summer, spending time between the care for teens and the care for octogenarians, I have thought often about the ages and stages of our precious lives. Striking the balance between readiness and support to move on to the next stage and enjoying what is beautiful about the current one is delicate. When I think about the 3400 children returning to PRS in two weeks, I know that each believes that he/she is in a new stage, ready for new challenges. I hope that you are able to slow down a bit and get close enough in conversation with your child to see and appreciate what they feel and think. PRS educators and support staff are fully prepared with resources, high expectations and an eagerness to greet your children on September **8th**, no matter what their ages or stages!

For all of the “news” on programs, technology, instructional initiatives, etc., for 09-10 (including information about H1N1) please visit our website at [www.prs.k12.nj.us](http://www.prs.k12.nj.us).

With great anticipation for a successful and enjoyable school year for your children,



Judith A. Wilson  
Superintendent of Schools

**A PLACE FOR LEARNING**

*The Princeton Regional Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer*