Hi folks,

I trust that you had a good week. I appreciate you taking the time to introduce yourself to me during pickup and drop off. I wanted to close the week by saying that now I know what it’s like to be head of school in a subtropical climate. This was a sticky and hot week! I also wanted to extend two invitations. The first explains why I hope you can join us for the Carol Dweck lecture on Thursday and the second involves an invitation to join a new parent advisory council.

**Carol Dweck Lecture:**

As some of you may know, I have coached soccer at the youth and high school level. One of the coaches that I respected the most used to call the team in at halftime and ask a question that I found fascinating. He asked, “What was really hard for you individually or for us as a team this first half?” No matter the score or the conditions, he focused on his players identifying what they could do to get better. He described it as “building their improvement muscle.”

His approach to getting his players to focus on the process of growing and learning as individuals and a team dovetails with the ideas at center of Carol Dweck’s research. Her research focuses on how to foster success and how to help children love learning and develop resilience in the face of adversity. So while I know this will be a busy week of evening commitments, with our Open House scheduled for Tuesday, I hope that you can attend the Carol Dweck lecture and parent discussion on Thursday as well as the special Q & A scheduled for Friday.

As professor of education and as a parent, I believe Carol Dweck’s work offers us a powerful framework to understand and teach our children. Essentially, Dweck seeks to understand why some people become challenge averse and fragile in the face of setbacks while others demonstrate a zest for challenge and engage with new opportunities with curiosity. Dweck’s research focuses on how individual’s conceive of themselves in relationship to learning. She calls these self conceptions, mindsets and her research identifies two distinct mindsets. The first she describes as a FIXED MINDSET. People who believe that intelligence and talent are innate devote their time to documenting their intelligence or talent. They tend to believe that talent trumps effort.

Conversely a GROWTH MINDSET believes that success hinges on effort and commitment. Those that have a growth mindset believe that achievements come to those who seek out challenge and feedback. Dweck believes that success comes to those with a growth mindset and contends that those who possess a fixed view of achievement, “become too focused on being smart and looking smart rather than on challenging themselves, stretching and expanding their skills, becoming smarter.” Her lecture will focus on what parents and teachers can do cultivate a growth mindset. (See below for links to articles and resources)

**Parent Advisory Council:**

My second invitation involves recruiting parents to serve on an ad hoc parent group that would serve in an advisory capacity to Maureen and I as we continue to think about the Campus School and our future direction. We seek parents willing to engage in open and honest dialogue about the school and to offer specific advice about particular initiatives and questions we may have involving school policies and approaches. If you are interested in serving on the advisory counsel, please send your name to Kathy Yarnell. The council will meet once a month in the evening. Our first meeting will be scheduled from 6:30-7:30 on 10/1. We are aiming for a committee of 14 people that represents the grades. We will randomly draw names if we have a glut of volunteers at a certain grade level.

**OTHER RESOURCES & DETAILS ON CAROL DWECK:**
• **OPEN LECTURE:** Thursday, September 19, 7:00 - 8:15 in Sweeney Auditorium, Sage Hall

• **PARENT-STAFF POST-LECTURE DISCUSSION:** Immediately following the lecture we have reserved room room 109. Approximately 8:30-9:15 (Please note, we know it’s late, but we figured that if parents were already out it would be easier than rescheduling for another day).

• **DISCUSSION WITH CAROL DWRECK:** Friday, September 20, 9:30 - 10:30, Coffee and Conversation with Carol Dweck,Neilson Browsing Room. This will be open to Campus School parents and Smith students.

The article that we read and discussed as a staff and faculty: Effort Effect

http://alumni.stanford.edu/get/page/magazine/article/?article_id=32124

**Other interesting Dweck Resources**


Education World Interview with Carol Dweck: http://www.educationworld.com/a_issues/chat/chat010.shtml

Stanford Univ. Lecture on Mindsets with Carol Dweck (8 minutes) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvIBG98wj0Q

Carol Dweck’s Brainology Program: Youtube Intro… http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF5yB31IT5Y

**YouTube** - Videos from this email