

Collaboratively Speaking

Riders Up!!!!

This coming Saturday marks the 134th running of the Kentucky Derby. While I am not particularly a fan or aficionado of thoroughbred horse racing I am captivated by this annual event on the first Saturday in May. The imposing beauty and physicality of the horses, the colorful silks of the jockeys and the stables that they represent, as well as the elegance, tradition and timelessness of Churchill Downs, provide a remarkable backdrop for what has been described as the “the most thrilling two minutes in sport.” To those who have invested untold fortunes and wagers on the outcome, I am sure it is important. To others, it is merely another rite of spring and signpost passed as we dash headlong into the halcyon days of summer. Similarly, in education, our annual rite of spring, the April vacation, has just concluded and marks our transition from winter to spring and our dash to our finish line, the end of the school year. The Run for the Roses journey is measured in furlongs (whatever they are). Cheering and boisterous spectators encourage the horses and their riders across the finish line. Our journey is two months long and lacks the jubilation and exuberance of an adoring and celebratory populace. We work, in quiet isolation, with the slow and steady hand of the expert craftsmen, admired from a distance when the labor has been concluded. Our journey is measured in student terms by MCAS scores, confidence developed, curiosity enhanced, grades attained, requirements met, strategies implemented, placement decisions reached, and steady progress achieved. This you do outside the limelight and without the fanfare of blaring trumpets. Our journey is so much more important and, certainly not any less frantic, stressful or hectic than those two minutes in Kentucky. Be mindful as you move forward during these next eight weeks to take time out for yourself and do the best that you can to take an occasional respite from the action by pulling back on the reins. Spring in New England is a time of rebirth, regeneration, fragrance and lushness. So as you ponder the verses of “My Old Kentucky Home” this Saturday, remember the dash to the finish line has begun.

Best wishes, Steve

*Reminder- The next general membership meeting is scheduled for May 19
and will feature Chair of the Board of Education and Secretary Designate Dr. Paul Reville*