

### *Counselor's Clipboard*

Report card time is here again, and with it comes another timely opportunity to examine your child's school progress. A report card can tell you a lot of things. Your child's areas of strength and weakness and their current achievement levels are pieces of information that you can learn from this document. But there are lots of things that you can't learn just from looking at child's report card – like how much potential your child has in an area, and how your child really feels about school. Sit down with your child in private when you discuss his or her report card. Ask questions about their grades and classes – it's the best way to find out what your child is feeling. After talking about the positives, work together to discuss areas where improvement may be needed. Set goals together, so that your child is enlisted in the effort. Be patient! Change happens over time, and there are no 'quick fixes'. Remember that every child is unique. Comparing your child to their sibling or next door neighbor rarely works in motivating children to increase their love of learning. Remember that talking to your child's teacher will provide you with a wealth of additional information about your child's personal growth and development. For further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 410.887.3455, or at [sfitzsimmons@bcps.org](mailto:sfitzsimmons@bcps.org)