

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Boston Public Schools

JACKSON MANN SCHOOL
JOANNE COLLINS RUSSELL
PRINCIPAL

Ronald Fernandes
Assistant Principal

Patricia Banks
Secretary

Rishi Shukla
Executive Director
Fitness Forward
401 Park Drive, 3rd Floor East - HSPH
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Rishi,

I am pleased to offer Fitness Forward my continued support and look forward to building upon our partnership in the months and years ahead. The need to promote healthier lifestyle among our students, families, and community is staggering. Fitness Forward's creative and inclusive approach to improving children's health is both refreshing and inspiring.

We are excited to work with Fitness Forward to implement Drive 2 Fitness at the Jackson-Mann and other Cluster 5 elementary schools during the 2007-2008 school-year. By working with schools, health professionals, parents, area universities, and community organizations and programs, such as the Allston-Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition and Technology Goes Home, the Drive 2 Fitness initiative promises to systematically improve the health and wellbeing of students and families, while simultaneously rallying the community to address childhood obesity, diabetes, and mental illness from multiple angles.

In addition to the social marketing, health education, tracking tool, and incentive components of Drive 2 Fitness, the Drive 2 Fitness Volunteer Corps will play an important role during the school day and after school. We look forward to having volunteers lead parent health workshops, provide community outreach, read health-related books to students during reading period, and teach students double-dutch and other games during recess, among others.

With all educators having laptops next year and the recently mandated school wellness policy requirements, Drive 2 Fitness represents a great opportunity to integrate technology in health and core educational instruction and to enable educators to become active participants in shaping the health and wellness landscapes at their respective schools. Furthermore, Fitness Forward's new web-based *Wellness Policy Scorecard* tool is very much appreciated and will help Cluster 5 elementary schools to devise, monitor, and meet their wellness policy action plans and whole school improvement plans.

I appreciate your commitment to our students and schools and am excited to collaborate with Fitness Forward as you roll out Drive 2 Fitness across Cluster 5.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne C. Russell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joanne Collins Russell
Principal
Jackson Mann School