## **NOVEMBER UPDATE**

## By: Van Riley, Superintendent

## **The Character of Our Students**

While academic success is our primary focus, teaching and modeling positive values can be just as important. Good sportsmanship, teamwork, and collaboration show good character. So this month I have attached a letter from an opposing coach addressed to our staff about the actions of our field hockey team and coach. I think the letter says it all about the character of our students...

Dear Mr. Friese and Mr. Morrone,

This past Saturday the Avon Field Hockey team made the long trip to Stonington to play our yearly out of league game. Each year we alternate home game sites. The game was well played and competitive, and was not only fun to coach, but watch.

When the game was over, the Stonington team had invited us to an area where they fed us pizza, sandwiches, and a huge assortment of desserts. We were speechless! Head Coach Jenna and her staff, along with the parents and her players were very kind and generous in inviting us to their gathering. They were concerned with our long bus ride that we would be getting back to Avon late and hungry! They even gave us 2 full boxes of pizzas as we boarded the bus!

We tend to hear all about the negative things around us. I wanted to let you know about the type of sportsmanship that was displayed to us by your field hockey coaches, players, parents, and fans. This thoughtful gesture left a great impact on our entire team. The whole ride home the girls kept mentioning how much they appreciated Stonington's kindness. On and off the field, Stonington displayed the utmost strongest class and sportsmanship. An act of kindness that was shown to us that we will long remember.

I just wanted to let you know. Warm Regards, Terri Ziemnicki Varsity Coach, Avon Field Hockey