

Superintendent's Monthly Message
December 2013

As we enter one of the shortest months of the school year, and approach the shortest day of the calendar year- December 21st (Winter Solstice)- we naturally turn our attention to the issue of time. For many of us, time is elusive. With all that we have to do or want to do, there just doesn't seem to be enough time. It might be worth taking a minute or two to think about time. Time is the one thing that is given to everyone equally. Unlike money or status or even health, time is doled out evenly. Every person has the same 24 hours in a day and the same seven days a week. We can't save it for a rainy day or pay it forward. We need to spend it as it is given to us. Time is a gift that is more precious than the rarest gem or all the gold at Fort Knox. My holiday wish for you and your family is that you spend your gift of time wisely and that every single one of you takes some time out during the upcoming winter break to spend quality time with your family and friends. Take time to laugh, hug, sing, and dance together. This holiday season make every minute count.

The period from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day is often termed a season of hope, where we often reflect on our past and make resolutions for the future. I cannot think of a place more filled with hope than our public schools. Here children, whose potential unfolds before our eyes, represent our collective dreams for a better tomorrow and a chance to solve our seemingly intractable problems. To this end, our schools, and more specifically our children, need not only our support, but the support of our entire community. We know that an educated populace lends itself to an active citizenship, good stewards of our resources, functional members of society, and provides footing for personal success in a college and/or career paths. We know that children who leave our school system with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed are more likely to give back to the community that supported them. The long-term, positive implications of a quality educational system and community support will undoubtedly help every child reach their dreams. To accomplish this we must have a community of educators, families, and friends that invests time and money in public education; and we must have a community of educators, families, and friends that understands the magnitude of what a quality education means for their lifestyle, whether they have children in the system or not; and we must talk with each other about our vision for our schools. For as Aristotle noted, "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." Together, our greatest achievements will be those that reflect a team, rather than an individual approach. Together we will do "whatever it takes" to ensure a bright future for the children of our District.

As we continue to celebrate the holiday season and look forward to 2014, I would like to once again express how thankful I am to you for your support. My gratitude goes out to the faculty and staff members, students, families, and community members. There is so much to look forward to in the New Year, but we need everybody's continued support in order to achieve the goals we have set out for our students and our schools. I am excited about the efforts we have already begun and the progress ahead to improve teaching and learning in all of our classrooms, and for all of our students. I hope 2013 ends on a very positive note for all of you, and I wish you a wonderful 2014. Here's hoping that, like our students and staff, we will return from this Winter Break with renewed energy and resolve. Enjoy the winter break.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Ross, E.d.D
Superintendent