

Superintendent's Monthly Message November 2013

Have you taken for granted anything that most deserves your gratitude? I know I sometimes do. When our trees show off their fall colors and we start thinking about cozying up near the fireplace after the sun sets, we also begin thinking about the upcoming holiday season. As soon as we put away our Halloween pumpkins, many of us start thinking about Thanksgiving, often forgetting the important holiday that falls on November 11th—Veteran's Day. It has been said that we often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. I hope that on November 11th, the day that has been proclaimed as a national holiday to honor our veterans, we remember and acknowledge the sacrifices that many generations of men and women in the service of our great nation have made.

But, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday there is much to be thankful for at Vineland—our wonderful children, our supportive community, and our talented staff. Excellence in education does not happen by chance and does not occur without the incredible contributions of countless adults—teachers, support staff, parents, volunteers, and community leaders—who are committed to our children and to the success of our district. And although we may not always agree, we must never lose sight of why we chose this noble profession and we should be thankful that we have been given the opportunity to practice our chosen profession.

To our teachers, principals, and school staff members, I thank you for dedicating yourselves to the challenging but rewarding and invaluable work of educating and nurturing children. I am thankful that each one of you have dedicated your professional lives to believing in and practicing "doing whatever it takes" to help our students achieve at the highest levels; by being committing yourselves to a "culture of excellence"; and in keeping alive the passion for teaching and working with children. You are on the front lines every day with our students, and your hard work will ensure their success. I deeply appreciate your talents, your passion, and your joy in working with our students.

To our district office staff, I thank you for committing yourselves to better serving our students and our schools through your support roles. Every employee of this school district plays a pivotal role in ensuring that our district achieves its mission. Thank you for being part of our team.

To our students and families, I thank you for choosing the Vineland School District. We are so proud to serve you and we look forward to building an even stronger relationship with you in support of our students.

To our community partners, supporters, and other stakeholders, I thank you for supporting the work of the Vineland School District in so many different ways. In these times of limited resources and shrinking budgets, having great community partners and advocates for the district is critical to ensuring that our work moves forward. We are lucky to have you as part of the Vineland family.

To our school board members, I thank you for your vision, your leadership, and the courage you display in making the decisions that are best for our children.

I am humbled by this opportunity to serve this community as your Superintendent. Thanks to everybody's hard work and unwavering support, we will achieve our goal of becoming a model small school district.

Thank you, once again, for all that you do for the district. I sincerely thank every member of the armed services for your dedication and service to our country and I wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely

Dr. Matthew W. Ross
Superintendent