



Superintendent's Letter November 2016

Another autumn is upon us and in addition to the unavoidable "all things pumpkin" craze we turn our minds to the season of giving thanks. With so much to be thankful for surrounding us the spirit of appreciation presents itself as unavoidable as well! Yet, I can't help to wonder whether the person sitting at the next table next to me in a restaurant, walking down the aisle in the opposite direction of me in the grocery store, or glancing at me as I drive by them in my car feels the same way. Perhaps we should all consider giving each of them a reason to be thankful. It could be as simple as a kind smile or as involved as asking them how things are going. In the spirit of such sentiments, this month is an opportunity to say thank you to our teachers and staff! I have known them for a little over a year and must admit I am a bit smitten! Why, you ask? Well let me tell you a few things about them to answer that question. Did you know that...

- ...our teachers are working to adopt many new instructional programs in the district? All of these involve intense professional development and sometimes radical changes in their teaching; yet they have embraced it with open arms. This is because they truly care about the success of your children!
- ... our teachers spend time each morning ensuring your child's day gets off to a good start by planning and organizing a Morning Meeting? This is because it welcomes them into the day and launches them into their academic school day so they can be as focused as possible.
- ...our teachers are quick with a hug, a "sweetie", a tissue to wipe a tear, or any other gesture appropriate to support them as they navigate the time of their life called childhood? This is simply because they care and they remember what childhood can be like!
- ...our teachers spend much time on their lunch and before and after school meeting together to ensure a cohesive and effective program for your children? This is because they are a dedicated family that leans on each other to ensure all of your children are growing and learning!

Now these may seem like items one should expect from our teachers, however, often times in life what we expect and what we get are two different things. Such is not the case with our teachers and staff.



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In this month we also celebrate American Education Week. Details will be sent out from your child's principal. This is a time to come and see what you have to be thankful for in your child's education. If you stop by Forrestdale please stop in to welcome the newest member of our family and one more reason to be thankful, Mrs. Anne Zimbile, Forrestdale Secretary.

In light of what we should expect from each other, I revisit my opening statement and challenge each of you to cross from expectation to action and ensure that those around you can be as thankful as you may be!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

With pride,
Dr. John E. Bormann
Superintendent of Schools