

Good afternoon!

I am hoping your October becomes a very rewarding month for each of you. I want to share something I wrote awhile back and something I feel fits particularly well with the Peninsula School District. Before I share that though, I wanted to say thank you and offer my apologies!

Thank you to so many of you who have wanted to meet with me and share your thoughts, hopes and fears and your warm welcome and gracious invitations. This community and district is an exceptional one in your generosity, your support for one another and the value you all place on our schools and the students and staff within our district. I have found nothing but support from this community for our teachers, administrators and all of our staff and students. To the person, individuals have expressed such appreciation for the care and instruction our staff provide our kids. It is great to be in a community such as this one where the community "gets it!" Great schools make great communities and great communities make great schools!

My apology is simply that I have not made it out to schools as much as I would like to during this first month. The meet the new guy meetings have been keeping me quite busy:-) I am looking forward to October and getting a better handle on my calendar so that I can be out and about more often. What I have seen has been incredibly impressive and I have appreciated the dedication and

efforts on the part of our staff, student and parents. Thank you!

I came across this quote sometime ago:

“No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

As I reflect on this, I am reminded that our job in education is more than just teaching kids. Rather, it is about *uplifting humanity*. Education is more than getting kids across the finish line of high school graduation. Education is about changing the world. It is about changing the destiny of people, families and generations to come. Education is about empowering people to overcome barriers that in the past has dragged individuals, families and even communities down. Nelson Mandela said that, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Education replaces war with tolerance, compassion and understanding and provides solutions that can have a lasting change and sustainable outcomes.

Maybe this is too idealistic...except that I have seen this change! I have seen students rise above their obstacles because of their educational experiences. I have seen the cycle of poverty broken because of the opportunities afforded people with a diploma/degree and the knowledge that a strong education provides. I have seen

people reach across the aisle with compassion and tolerance and seeking to understand first, before being understood.

We in education are in the business of *uplifting humanity*. Today, more than ever, our profession deserves the *dignity* and the recognition of how important our work is – not the negative barrage that we seem to be hit with on a daily basis from so many directions. For our part, we must continue to work *painstakingly* to provide *excellence* in our service and education to our students and families. At times, each of us may fall short, but through **collaboration, mindfulness, hope and compassion** we will continue to strive for perfection and excellence and support the learning and growth of our students with the end in mind of uplifting humanity for the greater good of all those we serve within our communities.

I am extremely thankful for the work I see here in the Peninsula School District and the efforts of our entire educational family and community. Watching the work of ALL our staff provides me with the hope of a bright future for my kids, my grandkids and this community.

I am looking forward to an exceptional rest of the year and thank you for your support and hard work!

Rob