

REFLECTION

November is a month that is well suited for reflection. Two special days on the calendar, Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving Day. Both days provide the opportunity to think about our heritage, our country, what's important to us as Americans, and what we are thankful for as we pause to reflect on what these two days mean to us.

These two days bring about different emotions, thoughts, and responses from each of us. The education community has long been involved in educating our students about the significance of Thanksgiving in our country. More recently, though, an increased emphasis has been placed on providing our students with information on the meaning and importance of Veterans' Day. By law, all public schools are required to plan observances of two days, Constitution Day and Veterans' Day. Both days, along with their respective observances in our schools, have passed us by for another year.

Back to Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving, it strikes me that both of these days are intertwined. It is difficult to separate the two. I would presume that we are all thankful for the freedoms we enjoy in our country. Many of us probably remember this fact at Thanksgiving, perhaps more than at any other time of the year. It's hard to be thankful for our freedoms without being thankful for the ones who laid it all on the line down through the history of this nation so that we could maintain and enjoy our freedoms.

If we each stop to think about it for a moment, we have much for which to be thankful. However, it is an unfortunate aspect of our human nature that we tend to forget about

these things. The great Shawnee Chief, Tecumseh, was once reported to have made the statement, "If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies in yourself." It would be my hope that none of my readers would find themselves in this situation. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

NEW SCHOOL DELAY PROCEDURES

In years past, schools in the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District have operated on a one-hour or two-hour delay when the need arose. This sometimes happened due to icy or snowy roads, high water, and on rare occasions, fog. Effective with the 2006-2007 school year, we have dispensed with the one-hour and two-hour delay procedures, and have replaced this two-step process with a 90-minute delay. On days when it is necessary to be on a 90-minute delay, breakfast will still be available for students upon their arrival to school. Be sure to listen to C103, WSRW, WFTM, or WPAY radio for school delay and closing information. You can also watch for this information on TV channels 5, 9, 12, and 19. If you have any questions about these new procedures, please feel free to contact your building principal, Transportation Supervisor Todd Scott at 587-2761, or myself at 544-5586.

THIRD GRADE READING RESULTS

Several days ago, school districts across Ohio received the results of the October administration of the Third Grade Reading Achievement Test. Keep in mind that this test

is administered two times in any given school year, fall and spring. When studying our scores, I found that our students performed lower on the October administration of the test than the previous two years. Granted, this test is reflective of third grade indicators and curriculum. It also reflects the level of mastery of PreK-2 reading curriculum.

As a district, 49% of our third graders scored Proficient, Accelerated, or Advanced. In October 2005, that figure was 52%, and in October 2004, it was 55%. If we break this down a little further by building, North Adams Elementary saw 59% of its third graders score at the Proficient level or higher. At Peebles Elementary, that figure stands at 50%, and at West Union Elementary, it is 40%. Keep in mind that this particular building and district indicator is earned when 75% or more of the third graders score at the Proficient level or higher. The spring administration of the Third Grade Reading Achievement Test will occur in May 2007. If you would like additional information, please contact your building principal or the Central Administration Office.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent