

HOLIDAY THOUGHTS

The days are rapidly dwindling for this calendar year. And, just for this week, I am not going to write about our schools, programs, or accomplishments. By now, all of the school concerts have been presented for the public's enjoyment. I was able to attend several of these presentations, and the effort exerted by the students and music instructors was quite evident. Many thanks to those involved with the presentations of music to the public. It is such a busy time of the year, and the days become shorter in terms of daylight. Anticipation abounds!

Recently, I read an article in the *Sunday Enquirer*. I was immediately saddened and repulsed by the content of the article, as I shared it with my wife. You see, she is a snowman collector, and has sweaters with snowmen on them. I imagine that many of you have snowman clothing, too. Well, the content of this article was focused on the "new" meaning behind certain clothes with snowmen on them. The T-shirt and the snowman in question are symbolic for drugs, specifically "crack or coke." As a parent, a grandparent, and an advocate for children, it saddens me to read and hear news such as this.

I guess that if I could really have anything that I wanted it would be a tough pick. Now, give me three choices, and the process becomes much easier. 1) Hunger and poverty would be eliminated and children would be allowed to grow up in an atmosphere of innocence; 2) No more war; 3) People would be judged by their hearts and their deeds, instead of their nationalities, the color of their skin, or their religious beliefs.

The reality is that no human can grant such wishes. However, mankind universally could do something about all three of these. We have the collective will and brains to accomplish so many unbelievable feats. Yet, we don't seem to be able to resolve these three wishes. If we really tried to address these wishes, just think of how much better the world would be. And, that includes our schools and classrooms.

As we prepare to close out the 2005 calendar year, I am thankful for our staffs and all of their efforts to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students. It doesn't matter what your job classification is, you are important and you make a difference. I am thankful for the students, the many great things that they do, and the opportunities that I have to interact with them. I am also very thankful for all of our caring and supportive parents and grandparents, along with our "school friends." After all, we all want our children to do well---don't we? It's been a very busy year, and 2006 promises to be even busier. Perhaps, a long winter's nap or two during the holidays will be in order. I wish all of you the best during this annual Holiday Season.

HEATING PROBLEMS

I feel that I must apologize to our elementary students, their parents, and the staffs. While we have experienced some issues at the high schools, the overwhelming problems with heating have manifested themselves at the elementary buildings. I'm not referring to the fact that we adjusted thermostats to 68 degrees in an attempt to stretch our utility

portion of the budget. It comes down to equipment problems. We are working day and night to try to keep the heat up in the elementary buildings.

Once again, I would ask that parents dress their youngsters warmly during the cold weather. I am often amazed at the numbers of children in the elementary buildings that are wearing T-shirts when the air temperature is not all that warm. We will not allow students to be housed in classrooms where the temperatures are in the forties and fifties. If your child is dressed in layers, then he or she can peel off a layer if the temperature is too warm. This also happens occasionally in our high school buildings. So, please dress your young children warmly, or in layers. We will continue to closely monitor the heat situation in the buildings. We will be checking and making temporary adjustments and/or repairs to the heating systems during the holiday break, especially in the elementary schools.

OGT TEST SCORES

Like all school districts in the State of Ohio, we recently learned that there had been some scoring errors on the Ohio Graduation Test scores. How, if at all, does that affect any of our students in the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District? At this point in time, I do not know. As soon as we receive this information from the Ohio Department of Education, we will immediately notify any of our affected students.

Merry Christmas to All!

Charles P. Kimble, Superintendent

