Season of Gratitude

It is hard to believe how fast 2021 has flown by! As the year comes to a close and we look toward the new year, it is a great time to reflect and be grateful. As author William Arthur Ward wrote, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." As December is the season of giving, it is the perfect time to express our gratitude to our community. As a district, we are grateful to serve wonderfully diverse and creative students. We are thankful to partner with supportive families, community organizations, and city leaders.

Sometimes, offering a simple "Thank you" never seems sufficient. Our work can be demanding-- at times stressful-- but rewarding and gratifying when we recognize the benefits of the work we do every day. We thank you for all that you do and appreciate everyone's collective enthusiasm to prepare, empower and inspire our students to be successful global residents. So, take some time during the holiday break to enjoy your family and friends. Let's re-energize for the new year and continue to do impactful work in Halifax County Schools.

Winter is an exciting time of the year for students and staff! With only a few more days of school until Christmas break, children, teachers, and principals are thinking of holidays and a vacation from school. I've got to admit, the holiday season inevitably makes me nostalgic, and this year is no different. Despite the recent setbacks, I would like to recognize the hard work of our staff, families, and students that still allowed us to chase our goals and reach the milestones and growth we had hoped for.

As we look at the growth we have experienced as a District; I'm not looking at numbers. I'm looking at the growth demonstrated by the maturity and kindness of our students. They have been through so much, but I am proud to see them becoming vital members of our school and the local community. The growth of our staff members' toolboxes as educators is second to none. We knew that our teachers were superheroes, but now they have sharpened the skills they never expected to need. They are blowing me away with their ability to broaden their skillset and act as a lighthouse for their students, leading the way with grace and flexibility.

This year has been marked by some truly great moments for our school district. The Enfield Middle STEAM Academy football Bowl Championship title is undoubtedly one of them. We are incredibly proud of our students but also highly grateful to the community that supports them. What gives me even more satisfaction than a trophy is knowing that this experience, like all competitive opportunities in our schools, focused on building character just as much as building champions.

Our students are following a standard set by a community that goes above and beyond to support our schools. In June, we hosted the first lighthouse solar energy camp in NC. We provided several meals over the summer for our scholars. In August, we opened two maker spaces for our students to be able to explore and create. In October, we held a district-wide outdoor science solutions day. Additionally, we have created earn while you learn opportunities through our Greenleaf farm program and Instructional Technology help desk. In Halifax County Schools we believe in providing our scholars with new academic opportunities that will help them be successful.

As we look to the year ahead, I challenge each of you to continue to aspire to make positive changes in our schools and communities. December is traditionally a month when our district hosts a variety of clothing and toy drives to benefit families in need in our community. Many of our staff, and community members have still stepped up to support our communities' students and families in need.

On behalf of the Halifax County Board of Education and myself, we want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, a relaxing and joyful holiday season, and a Happy New Year full of excitement and possibilities. We look forward to your safe return on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.