

From the principal's desk...

Dear families,

As we prepare for a wonderful treat next week – a full week of holiday time with our families and friends in celebration of Thanksgiving – I want to share my thanks with the Douglass community for some of the following:

Great ideas from great people. As you know, one of our school-wide goals involves increasing student safety at school as well as on the way to and from school. I spoke to several parents and teachers, and we brainstormed some ideas on how to make our kids feel safer on the school bus. An idea percolated and resonated with a few classrooms, and we have begun a system of “bus buddies”, where some 4th and 5th grade students are paired with Kindergarten and 1st grade kids as they get ready at the end of the school day and walk to the bus.

We’ve asked the older students to ask how their buddies’ day was, to teach them a song they learned that day, or to buddy-read on the way home. We’ve started the past few school years with bus buddies, just to get Kindergarteners comfortable with getting to the right bus at the end of the day. I’m grateful for the simple yet profound idea to continue this program throughout the year!

Tremendous parent support. Every day, we enjoy the fruits of the support of our parents – the funding for tutors who work with students in small group literacy settings, the parents who volunteer regularly in classrooms, the new Accelerated Reader and STAR Reading programs that you have made possible, and the commitment we have all made to supporting all students. Without all of us, none of us are successful in supporting the learning of our over 430 children. You continue to generate that support in little ways, such as using the King Soopers reloadable gift cards – the use of which will explode this weekend in my family as we prepare for Thanksgiving – and that support is going to be all the more important as we enter budget planning this spring where additional budget cuts from the state are all but guaranteed.

Dedicated, amazing classroom teachers and staff. From innovative performances and “informances” planned together by our music and classroom teachers, to the countless hours outside of the school day our teachers spend planning lessons that engage all students in their classroom, to the commitment of our literacy tutors and our small group lessons, to our office staff that works tirelessly to make teachers’ jobs easier, I am grateful to all of the people that serve our students and each other.

Spirit of giving. As I walked the hallways this morning, I was so happy to see the already overflowing boxes of non-perishable food items as a part of our annual student council food drive. That generosity will make a difference in the lives of unseen faces and unknown names, and I salute our students, staff, and community for their support of this effort.

From my family to yours – THANK YOU and HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Enjoy the week-long vacation next week.

Your principal,
Jon Wolfer