



November 23, 2020

Greetings North Cottonwood Parents and Families,

Thanksgiving is a special time take a break, reflect and give thanks for the blessings we have. So, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the things that we are thankful for as a school community.

First of all, we wish to express that we are thankful for you, our families, who partner with us every day in the interest of our students. It really takes a team, working together, talking openly and collaborating to support student achievement. The teachers and I appreciate those who have reached out to us with words of encouragement and support, to ask questions and to express concerns along the way. We appreciate that there are so many who continue to keep the faith in us and our intentions.

We are thankful that North Cottonwood School has an amazing faculty and staff. Our teachers, custodians, cafeteria workers, instructional aides, bus drivers, office and support staff and so many others show up and make it happen for our students every single day. Even through distance learning, our staff is on campus conducting virtual lessons, meeting with parents and preparing our campus for our students.

We also want to express that we are so thankful for our veterans and those who have served and continue to serve our country. We include in this our first responders who are fighting the good fight every day from the recent fires to the ongoing pandemic. We appreciate what you are doing and continue to do - giving your all to keep us safe.

And finally, we are most especially thankful for our students who are our mission and reason for our work. Teaching and education is more than a profession, it is really a calling to serve the children of our community. They deserve every opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, supportive environment...and that is what we daily strive to provide for them.

I was sharing with North's teachers on Friday that sometimes we need to express our frustrations with the things we cannot control such as what we are experiencing with COVID, the restrictions and all of the impacts. At the same time, it is easy to get caught up in a vortex of negativity. Mental health experts tell us that practicing gratitude and staying focused on the bright spots and silver linings in our lives helps us stay resilient in the midst of difficult circumstances.

So this holiday season, I encourage us all to take an inventory of what we have to be thankful for and share that with our children. They are watching us. Let's model that we can extend grace and forgiveness to others and when we gather around the table we are family, we are community, and we are in this together.

Take care. Have a wonderful holiday. Stay safe and healthy,



Cecile LaMar, Principal