

November 22, 2010

Dear North Putnam Faculty, Staff and Parents,

Many of us begin our Thanksgiving dinner by going around the table and giving everyone the opportunity to give thanks. As I reflect on the many things for which I am thankful, I want to take this opportunity to share just a few of them with you:

First of all, I am thankful for the wonderful teachers at North Putnam who enter their classrooms each day dedicated to helping children gain the knowledge and skills they need to make their dreams become a reality. It takes a special person to be a teacher. Teachers must know their subject matter and possess the ability to convey that information to their students in ways that are engaging and challenging for all learners. Effective teachers combine high expectations and incredible patience with a profound respect for each and every student who walks through their classroom door. Certainly, the teaching profession is challenging, but it is also very rewarding. I am thankful that so many of these special people have chosen the classrooms of North Putnam in which to share their talents.

I am also thankful for the principals, assistant principals and other administrators that help guide our teachers and staff and provide them with the resources and instructional leadership necessary to expect the most from each of our students. Strong instructional leadership is a key element of any successful school corporation.

I am thankful for our office secretaries, treasurers and support staff that are the "glue" of our schools and central office. These important people wipe away tears, bandage knees and assist students and parents. Without these important people our buildings would surely crumble.

I am thankful for the instructional assistants who profoundly touch the lives of the teachers and students they serve each day. Your work does not go unnoticed.

I am thankful for the bus drivers who safely transport our children to and from school each day and take the time to get to know each of the students who ride their bus. I am thankful for the Transportation Department for making certain our buses run efficiently even on snowy, cold mornings.

I am thankful for our custodians and Maintenance Department staff who make certain we have clean and well-maintained buildings. These important people spend countless hours overseeing projects, painting, waxing floors, cleaning classrooms, clearing sidewalks and shoveling snow.

I am thankful for our cafeteria staff that makes certain we are well fed and take such great pride in the meals they serve our children and staff.

I am thankful for our coaching staff who have a tremendous impact on our student athletes both on and off the field, court, and track. I am thankful for our extra-curricular staff who impress upon our young people the importance of discipline and a job well done. Hundreds of hours are spent preparing our students for competitions and performances. Many of these people volunteer their time and talents because they care deeply about the students they work with each day.

I am thankful for our community leaders and Board members that support our schools and demand excellence from them. By having high expectations and giving schools the support they need to succeed, both the schools and community benefit.

I am particularly thankful for the parents who recognize how important a good education is to the future of their children and are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to ensure that they receive it. Helping with homework, volunteering at school, providing additional reading and learning materials at home, making

trips to the library, attending programs and, most of all, making education a priority, are all ways that parents support their children and help them get the education they need to be successful in the 21st century.

Finally, I am most thankful for the children that come to school every day ready to learn. They fill our classrooms with their bright smiles, big imaginations and limitless potential. They inspire our teachers and administrators and give all of us in education a reason to try harder each day to help them to fulfill all of their dreams and reach their full potential.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Mary Sugg Lovejoy, Ph.D.
Superintendent