

From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen....

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

~Sydney J. Harris

Deerfield High School celebrated Homecoming on October 15th welcoming back many high school alumni for a beautiful fall weekend. A terrific spirit week was capped off with a Friday steeped in tradition. From the Lions Club chicken barbecue and afternoon parade down main street to the Athletic Boosters tailgate supper and large crowds of family and friends together in the stadium, the true purpose of “homecoming” was seen on the faces of many.

I had the unique perspective of watching the crowd and the game that night from my post at the clothing cart selling t-shirts and sweatshirts. What fun it was to watch new college freshman greet high school teachers with stories of late night studying and mid-term exams. Great pride could be heard in the sharing of college accomplishments. One freshman announced she received the highest score in her class for the creation of a dialyser (I had to google search this term later) while another beamed about a math mid-term score. And another student shared that our high school anthropology course is more difficult than the one he is currently taking in college. Comparisons of roommates, required reading selections and college-life stories rounded out an amusing dialogue between college students and teachers.

From my post I also got to observe the smiles and hugs between older alumni. Greetings of past high school nicknames and stories of past athletic teams were heard intertwined with lots of laughter. Former students conjured plans to participate in the newly formed alumni basketball tournament with the hopes of drawing their former coach (now athletic director) out of retirement again. Others spoke of upcoming class reunions and plans to get together once again reaffirming the tradition of homecoming.

A community member joked with me about the superintendent having to sell t-shirts but I think I had one of the best spots in the stadium. The opportunity to listen to the stories of Deerfield graduates of all ages was priceless. My window to the world on that Friday night confirmed that Deerfield, as a community and school district, has much to be proud of and is a great place for kids to learn and grow.