

From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen...

“We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.” ***Sandra Day O'Connor***

While reflecting on the many wonderful happenings in our schools this month two themes came to mind: COMMUNITY and CARING. We started the month with a wonderful musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, put on by the HS music department. With a cast of over 60 students it was truly a community of actors. But just as inspiring was the community support displayed by the numerous volunteers who helped build and take down sets, paint scenery, sew costumes, manage the stage, run the sound equipment, sell the flowers and tickets, run the concession stand and the many other errands that needed to be done. Each night the cast was fortunate to perform to a full house with floor seats and bleachers filled by family, friends and community members supporting their efforts.

This past week our district celebrated and remembered Veteran's Day with two special programs to honor our local veterans. Beginning with a community reception at the high school and leading into a beautiful ceremony, staff, students, and guests were treated to a special performance by our band and choir and guest speeches signifying the importance of this day. The elementary school also held an afternoon program featuring the fourth grade choir and a speech from our local VFW commander Carl Weier.

The elementary character education theme for November is CARING. How fitting that in this Thanksgiving season, so many caring projects are taking place in our schools. Last week the elementary school held a Coins For Kids fund drive to support the Deerfield Food Pantry housed at the Deerfield Community Center. The students raised \$1000 during their five day collection along with the donations from staff and the elementary PTO.

In addition, the high school National Honor Society held Freaky Food Friday on Friday the 13th. High school students brought in food items for the food pantry to put their teacher in the Frightville chair for the class hour. Adding to the food drive were the items collected on Saturday as part of the Elementary PTO craft fair. Soon, the Bridges after school program will host a pie-baking class afterschool with all pies going to the community center Thanksgiving baskets for distribution next week.

The weavings of these individual threads of care are working to create a beautiful tapestry which benefits the whole community; those are life-lessons that continue to support our mission of excellence and equity as our students benefit from giving as well as receiving.