

Kieleidoscope  
February 16, 2017

This is the time of the year when I get tired of the gray skies and cold weather and I have to give myself a little “pep-talk” after months of waking up in the dark. I get tired of putting on the same winter clothes, going out into the cold and feeling the bitter wind on my face.

One way I could change this would be to move south. I am not going to move so I work to find the positives in each day to avoid the dull-drums of the long winter. It takes some direct effort on my part to move my mind-set toward positive thinking.

We all know two basic types of personalities; a cheerful, friendly and optimistic one and a negative, naysaying, pessimistic one. We all have days that can have us go either way but what is your default personality? My default is optimism.

There is plenty to be negative about but I believe there is more to be positive about. I come to work everyday and see so many things that are going right in the Kiel Area School District. This is a most rewarding opportunity. I recently attended the Middle School play. The first production presented by the middle school students. For weeks prior to the play I would walk through the middle school and hear from the cast of students how excited they were to do the play. They would tell me how hard it was to memorize their lines and tell me about how funny the play is going to be. Their positive energy was contagious.

This past week we held the Parent Advisory Council meeting. Current school board members and the two new candidates attended to share their vision for the future of KASD. It was a very informative meeting. The takeaway I had was the importance of building a positive message about our district.

It is no secret that we have had our share of negative press lately. I think parents and the majority of our community are tired of it and ready to move toward a more positive story. This is what I have been hearing and it is a refreshing message!

If we want the best for our students and want the support of the community we have to look for the positive and advocate for our school district. I often hear we want Kiel to be a district of choice. I believe we are a district of choice and it is time to tell our public why. The loud negative voice often gets the attention. I want to challenge our community to override the negative voices and shout loud about the positive.

To show our Raider pride for having the sixth highest ACT score out of thirty schools in CESA 7. To show our Raider pride for the work of the parents for the Raider Nation Renovation group working to update the athletic fields and those working hard to bring a new auditorium to our community. To show our pride for Zielanis Elementary for scoring “significantly exceeds” on the school report card and for the recognition from the DPI as a school showing “high growth and

closing the gap". Showing pride for our volunteer business partners who coached our Robotics team all the way to the state competition. Pride for the partnership with Amerequip and several other businesses who donated to Teaming for a Brighter Tomorrow.

These are but a sample of the achievements happening in our district. I see success in our classrooms everyday. Is everything perfect? No. We are always striving for continuous improvement. Our work is never done. We have a responsibility to educate all the children who walk through our doors and it is a responsibility we embrace.

So are we going to look on the bright side or join the negative naysayers? I challenge our parents and our community during these gray days of winter to seek the positive and to look to the future of KASD with optimism and hope. It is time to change the story. Our children depend on us!