

April 18, 2019

"Kiel Schools Celebrate Amazing Staff and Students"

As we head toward summer and begin to reflect on yet another successful school year, we continue to celebrate and highlight our students and all that they have accomplished. For example, our track and field, soccer, softball and golf teams are off and running and have already found success on the field and course. The high school musical "Little Women" was a major success and a huge hit in our community and the forensics team continues to amaze with their dramatic performances; these are just a few examples of the exceptional performing arts programming that we have in our school district and community.

In April, Zielanis Elementary School celebrated "no TV week." The week included a bingo night, book fair and pizza night among other activities. The week culminated with a "Willy Wonka" themed dance that saw hundreds of students and parents dancing, singing and having a great time.

On May 15th, our athletic field renovation project will break ground. On May 14th all are welcome to attend a groundbreaking ceremony that will begin at 8:45 am. at the complex. This project will include a new field, bleachers, press box, concession stand, track, etc. and will be fully equipped to host soccer, football and track and field events for all ages of students. This project will be completed around August 15th. A huge thanks to the high school tech. education staff and students for completing the work on the inside of the press box and ticket booth; this real world partnership and work experience will benefit the community and the students!

The Buildings and Grounds committee is putting the finishing touches on the performing arts center that is scheduled to break ground this year. I will continue to update the community on the progress of this project. We will set up periodic tours of both projects throughout the year for the community.

Last year the community approved a referendum question that allowed the school district to address maintenance, technology and programming needs. Many maintenance projects are underway and many others will happen this summer: roof replacements, HVAC upgrades, parking lot repairs across the district, door replacement, safety upgrades, tuckpointing, baseball and softball field upgrades, locker room renovations, etc. Eventually I will send out a document that shows all of the work that has been completed. If you would like further information regarding this work, please give me a call at any time.

The month of May also allows us to honor and celebrate our students even more as we enter into concert and graduation season; events include the middle school band concert, 1st grade play, high school choir "home show", Zielanis spring concert, Kindergarten play and graduation, high school music concert, middle school choir concert, 5th and 6th grade band performances and of course our high school graduation on June 2nd.

Please join us at these events to honor the work of our students and staff! We will also be "livestreaming" (this means that we will send out a computer link so that our live events can be watched on TV or by computer at any location) many of these events so that our community, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc. can see our students in action, no matter where they live or work.

As we begin to wind down the school year in the Kiel Area School District, we continue to encourage our students to "finish strong" and continue to find success.

A big part of our ability to celebrate our student successes is due to the amazing staff that work with our students. With that being said, May 6th - May 10th is nationally recognized as "Teacher Appreciation Week." In the Kiel Area School District, we celebrate this week by calling it "Staff Appreciation Week." In other words, we not only celebrate our teachers, we also celebrate all of those individuals that work within our school district that contribute to the success of our students: teachers, support staff, district office personnel, coaches, volunteers, advisors, cooks, custodial staff, etc.

I would like to personally say "thank you" to our staff. Thank you for creating an environment for students that is kind, caring, creative and positive. Thank you for delivering a curriculum that is exciting and engaging. Thank you for encouraging our students to "think outside of the box." Thank you for wrapping your arms around each and every student and treating our students as if they were your own. Thank you for putting in so many hours above and beyond your contract to ensure that every student finds success both socially and academically. Thank you for doing this, day after day, month after month, and year after year.

Throughout "staff appreciation week," the school board members will be taking time out of their busy schedules to honor and celebrate our staff in a variety of ways; we will cook breakfast, work with local businesses to celebrate staff, deliver treats and simply say "thanks" for all of the work that is done in support of our children.

To ensure success in any school district, it takes an entire community of people to support the children within it. A community and staff that continue to provide the very best opportunities for the children within it will see countless benefits, both socially and academically, as a result.

Let's get out there and thank those that serve our community by educating our children, protecting our freedoms, keeping us safe, plowing our roads, cleaning our parks, delivering our mail, etc.; they work tirelessly every day to do their part to ensure our community continues to find success. I hope all of us continue to say "thank you" and show our appreciation for a job well done!