

May 19, 2019

As we wind down the school year and we reflect on what an amazing year it has been, I would like to take the opportunity to take a look back at many of the positives and successes that we have experienced in the Kiel Area School District during the 2018-19 school year.

In August we began by welcoming back our students and staff and setting the stage for a fantastic school year by showcasing our band, choir and youth theater students at our first full staff in-service. Our students dazzled us with their talent, energy and enthusiasm!

Homecoming week included the powder puff football game, high school skits and the homecoming game and parade; these events truly showed the powerful school spirit in our school district and community.

Our football, soccer, cross country, tennis and volleyball teams found success in a variety of ways and with a variety of conference and individual championships; we are proud of the way that our students represent our community both on and off the field.

As fall continued on, we were highly entertained by our high school musical as well as a variety of band and musical concerts and performances at all levels. We also honored our Veterans by taking time out of our schedules to recognize those that serve our country, protect our freedoms and keep us safe.

The school report cards were released and the Kiel Area School District "exceeded expectations." We are very excited about this achievement! We would like to thank our staff, parents and community for the important role they play in the success of our children.

Winter sports teams, as well as extra curricular clubs and groups exemplified what Kiel is all about: grit, determination, hard work and sportsmanship. The Math Club, Forensics Team, Ice Fishing Club, Basketball Teams, Robotics Teams, etc. all represented our community in a positive way and in a variety of competitions.

Our swim teams competed hard and our wrestling team was one point away from qualifying for the state tournament! Throughout the entire year, our dance team demonstrated amazing skill at many of our events.

We are also proud of our award winning Future Farmers of America Program, as well as our Agriculture Program. The celebrations included a “drive your tractor to school” day and many individual and team awards.

Our middle school students had the opportunity to participate in a number of exciting programs that challenged their minds, including Makerspace Stem team challenges, Chess Club, Art Club, PI Girls (robotics for girls) and SWAT Boys (students working to advance technology), etc.

This year, our elementary students continued to enhance their reading, writing and math skills, as well as learning about what it takes to be a hard working and positive community member. By visiting our local businesses, keeping our parks clean, raking leaves for the elderly, taking part in “no screens week,” and listening to many guest speakers at “hobby and career day,” our youngest students continued to develop the skills that will assure they are a valuable and contributing member of our community.

We can not thank the community enough for its support of the referendum question that passed last spring that allows us to enhance our facilities over the next ten years and for supporting the future of the Kiel Area School District. This additional revenue will allow us to upgrade our aging facilities, enhance our school safety measures, sustain and build upon our technology initiatives and enhance our programming for students. A number of projects have already been complete and more are to come this summer, including upgrading our parking lots, repairing damaged doors, redoing locker rooms, repairing our HVAC systems, replacing damaged and leaky roofing, electrical upgrades as well as repairs to our softball and baseball fields to name a few.

We are also proud to have partnered with the Kohler Corporation in regards to the two projects that are happening at Kiel High School (building a new athletic complex and performing arts center). Kohler Corporation has agreed to donate nearly 25,000 dollars of plumbing equipment that includes sinks, toilets, etc. This partnership is the just the

beginning of the many partnerships we hope to continue to build with our businesses. Next year as part of our strategic plan, we will begin to enhance our business partnerships, increase trades opportunities for students, offer more higher level and dual credit courses and expand personalized learning opportunities for our students; there will be plenty of opportunities for businesses to partner with us.

The athletic complex renovation began last week with a groundbreaking ceremony in which hundreds of students, parents, community supporters and community members gathered together to officially begin the project. The start of this project signifies a major “win for kids.” Our goal is to keep winning for kids!

The financial and other specifics of the performing arts center are being finalized at this time, including another review of the best possible location site for this new complex. On May 28th at 6 pm at Kiel High School, the school board has invited the community to attend an informational session which will review the progress of what will be a beautiful and much needed performing arts center for our students and community to use. All are welcome to attend!

We also celebrated “Staff Appreciation Week” during the month of May. We celebrated our staff by providing meals and treats for them, painting windows around town thanking them and sharing “thank you” cards with them, etc. I know our hard working Parent Teacher Associations, students and community members worked exceptionally hard to share with teachers how much they are appreciated. Please join me as we continue to say “thank you” to our teachers not only during Staff Appreciation Week, but every chance we get, as they truly hold the future of our children in their hands! Let’s also remember to thank all others that serve our communities and keep us safe, such as police officers, fire fighters, military personnel, etc.

Finally, the month of May signifies what I like to call “celebrating our kids season.” We showcase their talents and hard work by attending their concerts, shows and graduations. The high school graduation on June 2nd at 2 pm is the culminating ceremony in which we celebrate and say “goodbye” to our senior class of graduates. We would like to thank them for the contributions they have made to our school district and community and wish them the best of luck as they move into the next phase of their

life! We sure hope they consider using their talents to help move the Kiel Area forward in the future!

We will be “live streaming” as many of these events as we can; this means that we have created our own YouTube channel that allows us to showcase our events “live” to our parents, grandparents, community members, etc.; no matter where our stakeholders live or work, they will be able to watch these events “live” on their TV’s, computers, phones, etc. Please let me know if you would like to be part of the communication group that is sent the links to these live events by emailing me at bebert@kiel.k12.wi.us.

Wow! That’s a lot to celebrate! It seems like the list of celebrations could go on and on. Our future is bright in the Kiel Area School District as together we continue to build on the opportunities we provide for our students.

Thank you for helping me celebrate this year and for providing so many positive comments, support and well wishes. We look forward to a continued partnership with students, staff and the community!