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Together We Are Inspiring Life-Long Learners

Superintendent's Corner

June 2nd, 2020

Greetings,

Can't believe we are already into June! Our school will be completing the school year on Friday, June 19th. It has been a much different year for most of us. The many changes with the COVID-19 Virus and resulting quarantine has really impacted so many with illness, unemployment, isolation and an adjustment to our separation from one another. Trusting each of you is beginning to find some balance and hope- even when the situation seems challenging.

We certainly have a wonderful place to be isolated! Each day I am amazed with the views and colors of the Wild sky Wilderness. It is so good to be out hiking in the hills (Keeping a safe distance from others of course!).

Our school year has had a great deal of adjustments. We have developed a "Distance Learning Plan" to help students and staff navigate online learning as well as packet deliveries to each school home. Teachers have been contacting families via social media, letters, calls and ZOOM. It reminds me of Aretha Franklin and her memorable song "Who's Zooming Who?" (*That is my Old Dad attempt at a joke*). I am very encouraged by the hard work and support that our staff has been giving to each family. We have been sending home breakfast and lunch each school day to any families who request it. We are also sending home and picking up learning materials (Both packets and online materials) each Thursday. 92% of the students are engaging with the materials and returning them to be corrected. We have also modified our grading process due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We must maintain equity for all students and families because each household has varying degrees of technology support at home. We have handed out laptops to any students that are in need of support technology.

More important than the academic side of education, we are really focused on helping our students feel connected both to their family and to their teachers. We have worked to communicate regularly each week and check in on how everyone is doing. I believe that during this time, we need to really be listening to one another and trying to find ways to encourage one another. It was exciting to have the Sheriff and Fire departments join us in a parade a couple weeks back. We were able to go to each household and remind students that we missed them and wanted to make connections with them.

The Sky Valley Food bank has teamed up with Index School District to safely support families in need with boxes of food. We so appreciate the generous nature of families who give to the food bank and those that help distribute this food. This is so important during a time where many people are unemployed and in need of basic necessities.

We at Index School District want to thank folks for their generosity in town and willingness in lending a hand to your neighbor.

Wishing each of you the very best,

Brad Jernberg- Superintendent for Index School District