



The Importance of Dreaming

January 2017

Looking Forward to the Year Ahead

Sometimes when meeting with a student, I am struck by the feeling of hopelessness that is expressed by the young person sitting before me. As members of the Brushton-Moira Central School Community, it is our job to share our vision for a better world by educating our children. This is not solely the job of our teachers, but our parents, our support staff, our administrative team, and our Board of Education members. We are part of a team that must work together to teach many life lessons not only of Science, English, Math and Social Studies, but also of tolerance and human dignity.

We need all kinds of experts in our school community. We need consensus-builders, community connectors and financial wizards. We need cheerleaders and analyzers and optimists. And we absolutely need visionaries. Ideally, each of us tries to be a little of all of these, as the situation demands. I would encourage you to become more involved in our school community this year. There are so many opportunities. We have a very active Parent-Teacher-Student Organization. Our Fitness Center is open for all community members Monday through Thursday. Our sports teams and musicians would enjoy your encouragement and support at each of their performances. I welcome you to join us at school.

We are in the beginning stages of planning a Capital Building Project that will address maintenance issues that were discovered or identified during our Building Conditions Survey in November 2016. There is a need for a multi-purpose classroom for the move to all computer-based testing within the next three years. Because we are now providing a full-continuum of Special Education Services for our students, we have the need to build a few new classrooms. We are planning the renovation of the 1959 auditorium, the original Family and Consumer Sciences classroom (previously called “Home Ec”), and making access to community events easier for all attendees. While all of these plans are running on a very tight time-line, we will be offering this project up for public referendum on March 14th. There will be a public hearing prior to the vote to make sure all of your questions are answered and potential conflicts are addressed.

I’ve always been inspired by our founding fathers, who exemplified both idealism and practicality. Although Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were political rivals, they found common ground when it came to education. They both believed that educated citizens were critical to a strong democracy. Adams said, “The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expense of it.” Jefferson said, “The tax which will be paid for this purpose (education) is not more than a thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priest and nobles who will rise among us if we leave the people in ignorance.”

Work in education can be frustrating at times, but it is also noble. Our communities trust us with a precious resource. That is why we need to think big and challenge ourselves. What’s possible?

Today’s challenges are many, but one that is central to the idea of democracy is the importance of serving the potential of all our students equally. If there are segments in our school community where students are underperforming their peers, then we need to focus our attention on correcting the inequities. It’s up to us to make sure that every student has equal access to an education that allows them to fulfill their aspirations.

This New Year as we review the many things on our to-do lists, we must not forget to dream – and dream big. Ultimately, that’s what education does for each of us: helps people fulfill dreams.