

## *From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen*



While another calendar year comes to a close, we are in the midst of our school year. For many of us, our in-box is full, the to-do list seems never-ending and our attention is pulled in multiple directions. Outside of the school world, the political horizon brings many unknowns both locally and across the country. With media streaming 24/7 and sound bites being thrown around like confetti, we are faced with even more distractions. Maybe now is a good time to pause a moment to reorient ourselves.

I have long had an admiration for Fred Rogers. He dedicated his life to thoughtful service for others, most importantly, through his influence on millions of children through his television program. So, I share one of his quotes as we wade through a world (even the education world) often directed by social media, fake news, and the flashy and superficial.

*“A high school student wrote to ask, ‘What was the greatest event in American history?’ I can’t say. However, I suspect that like so many ‘great’ events, it was something very simple and very quiet with little or no fanfare (such as someone forgiving someone else for a deep hurt that eventually changed the course of history). The **really** important ‘great’ things are never center stage of life’s dramas; they’re always ‘in the wings.’ That’s why it’s so essential for us to be mindful of the humble and the deep rather than the flashy and the superficial.”*

This upcoming year, my wish for all of us is to look for those things that happen ‘in the wings.’ Whether it be an afterhours conversation with a struggling colleague, the fist-bump to a kid after the concert, the note sent to someone for a job well done or saying ‘yes’ to yet another obligation (when we’d like to say ‘no’).

The beauty of working in the school world is that schools are filled with moments ‘in the wings.’ Moments that have the ability to alter an outcome, lift a spirit, set a course straight, change perspective. Moments that might come from a teacher or coach, but just as importantly, might come from the many adults within our community who support and encourage our kids by attending concerts, cheering on athletes, and eating at concession stands. Thank you for making those moments ‘in the wings’ happen for our kids. Best wishes for a joyous new year.