



# DURAND-ARKANSAW SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Families,

As we move towards Thanksgiving, let us remember all of the sacrifices that our soldiers and others have made for us so that we may live in peace. Our Veterans' Day Program was so special and I am grateful for the dedication of those who put it together. The video slide showcasing our student interviews and heartfelt thank you's, left many of us with tears in our eyes and grateful hearts. Thank you again to all the men and women who serve or have served in our Armed Forces.

The Durand-Arkansaw School District continues to improve teaching and learning for all students and we know that parents and families are our most valuable partners. I hope the first quarter of school was a success for your child(ren) and that you are looking forward to the second quarter with the same level of enthusiasm and excitement as we do. Throughout the last few years school districts across the state of Wisconsin have been adopting Standards Based Report Cards. We are now in our fourth year of doing this in grades K-5 to reflect the rigor and expectations of our adopted state standards. These standards describe what every child should know and be able to do in each subject area and grade level by the end of the school year. We do a variety of tests and assessments in the first quarter that help us determine strengths and challenges in our students. We use the information from these tests to strengthen our delivery of instruction, examine the texts used to teach our graded academic areas and to ensure that gaps do not exist in our curriculum. These standards are used to measure student performance across the country. After having time to look over the report card please feel free to contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Johnson in the school office.

Every year around the holidays, I always think about gifts and the hustle and bustle of Christmas time. I write this in every November and December newsletter. This year is no different; life can change so very quickly and unexpectedly, please remember that precious gift of "time". The intangible commodity we all claim to value, yet have so little of. I am asking that, over the holidays, you reflect on the time you have given your children, your spouse, your friends, or your parents. Perhaps this year, we can wrap up pretty packages with certificates inside stating an allocated amount of "time" you will spend with the ones you love. In essence, you have captured time. Isn't it "about time" we celebrate and embrace the gifts that are right in front of us...**each other.**

There are so many gifts to be grateful for. Know that you are in my thoughts and that I count you and your families as blessings. I wish you peace, joy, and love this holiday season. May you know the joy of sharing these gifts with others. Please take time to engage your child in conversation that reflects all they have to be thankful for in their young lives. From our elementary school family to yours, we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Yours in Education,

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