

## Letter to the Team #5

December 3, 2021

### College Admissions and Scholarships

Bangor High School held their fourth “On the Spot Admissions Day” on November 30<sup>th</sup> with Eastern Maine Community College. Previous celebrations this month for students who applied early for college entry included the University of Maine, Husson University, and the University of Southern Maine. These collective celebrations recognize the hard work and dedication of students who continue to excel through the adversity of the pandemic. Fifteen students earned \$235,500 in merit-based financial aid from the University of Southern Maine averaging \$17,567 per student. Collectively from the University of Maine, Husson University, and the University of Southern Maine thus far, students have accumulated financial aid offers totaling \$1,861,100. Props to Dr. Adam Leach, Sharon Pelletier-Ayer, Michael DeRespino, Corinne Foley, Scott Clement, and Jennifer Thayer for your diligence and dedication for all students.



### Bangor Day

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> we are asking all Bangor employees to wear cardinal red and white. I encourage you to consider donating \$10 by writing a check to the Bangor School Department to be donated to the Good Shepherd Food Bank. GSFb will build food boxes for a non-contact distribution. For a \$10 donation Bangor School Department staff may wear jeans on December

22<sup>nd</sup>. (I have already written my check and encourage you to join the party for this worthy purpose to serve our community.)

Our schools are in short supply of winter gear – Ski Pants, Jackets, Mittens, Boots (new or gently used). As part of Bangor Day if you would like to donate to a school, we sure could use it. Our Social Workers and School Counselors are working to make sure every child is warm this winter!

### Time for Reflection

As the holiday season approaches I encourage you to hold on to the “One Word” that you may have chosen. I continue to take a “gratitude” walk or run every single day purposely thinking of the people I am grateful for. Voices filled with youthful song at Mary Snow School that I heard after school in the gymnasium provide a sense of hope. As I walked through James F. Doughty School, I noticed the word of the week is “teamwork,” which coincided nicely with a poster created by the Civil Rights Team showcasing the talents and gifts of all our students.



### 13.1

Many of you asked if my wife Jodi and I finished the Philadelphia Half Marathon. After sharing with you that we were running this race it occurred to me that I'd have a lot of explaining to do if we did not finish. I am happy to report that after setting multiple wake up alarms, à la Seinfeld (please indulge me and pretend you've actually heard of the show), we arrived at 6:00 AM for the 7:00 AM start time. We both finished 13.1 miles, running a 9:43 and a 9:46 mile pace. Ironically, we ran approximately two miles uphill between miles nine and eleven only to discover the top of the hill is aptly named Mount Pleasant.



At every race there is a story that will resonate with me for the rest of my life. This one will make me more reticent of my physical aches and pains that I often tend to exaggerate. One of the runners was a cancer patient whom Jodi and I ran beside for a brief portion of the race. She likely did not have much time left to live; however, she talked incessantly and joyfully about every site that she passed throughout the historical city of brotherly love, conjuring up memories of her past. She had five of her closest friends running the race with her, pushing her low riding wheelchair as a well-practiced team. The joy that she experienced in company with her closest friends brings tears to my eyes as I humbly attempt to create this letter.

Wishing you Happy Holidays with gratitude.

Enthusiastically yours,

Jim Tager  
Superintendent  
Bangor School Department