

Letter to the Team #6

“Be the Light”

While visiting Cathy Hanscom’s sixth grade classroom at James F. Doughty School, I witnessed students excitedly using the Amanda Gorman quote as the theme for the year in their ELA class. Students were looking for situations where characters and people are acting bravely enough to be impactful and “be the light” in each text that they read. This technique makes writing projects more meaningful by having the students write for an authentic purpose.

“It’s Great for my Heart”

As we move into the New Year 2022 filled with possibilities for all students who each possess a unique talent or a gift, I’d like to share the letter below that I received from a parent. I believe the sentiments she mentions aptly capture how much each of you care for students. As the New Year begins I challenge you to find a student in your building that you do not know and introduce yourself. I believe that you too may find that a simple gesture is great for your heart.

Greetings Fairmount team,

I want to express my sincere appreciation to each of you! Cameron's 4th-grade experience is more than James and I could have ever imagined. He comes home from school HAPPY and MOTIVATED every single day. He is receiving the perfect balance of academic rigor and love. The after-school programs have also provided him with a holistic school experience that I have always wanted for both of our children. Last night he told me, "at Fairmount, they don't suppress my ideas. It's great for my heart."

The pandemic has taken a toll on the world. I argue that teachers and school systems educating K-12 students have experienced some of the most significant challenges among all systems. I want to praise you for your commitment to our children during this extremely difficult time. Your work is not unnoticed, and you are what I am most thankful for this holiday season.

Keep Moving Forward

I never imagined that we would be in the 22nd month of a global pandemic, and yet here we are. Beginning this New Year I continue to hold the word “gratitude” close to my heart and find a bright spot every single

day. Some days it is easier to find than others; however, I am committed toward finding positivity daily by gravitating to positive people. The letter below is a powerful gesture of gratitude for teachers, staff, administrators, and nurses of whom I am convinced have a “super power.” The resilience of our nurses and their caring nature is something I will always remember.

Hello

I want to thank all BSD staff for how they've been handling the covid pandemic. I have two children in Bangor schools and every step of the way their teachers and school administrators have been focused on the kids and making it as easy as possible for the students and parents to adjust to the changes. I also want to thank you for the speedy arranging of the Covid-19 vaccine clinics for 5-11 yr old's yesterday. We took our 10 yr old to Cohen. The school staff was courteous and professional, as always. The nursing staff was great. Many of us appreciate the additional hard work you've all put in over the past nearly two years.



Enthusiastically yours,

Jim Tager

Superintendent of Schools

Bangor School Department