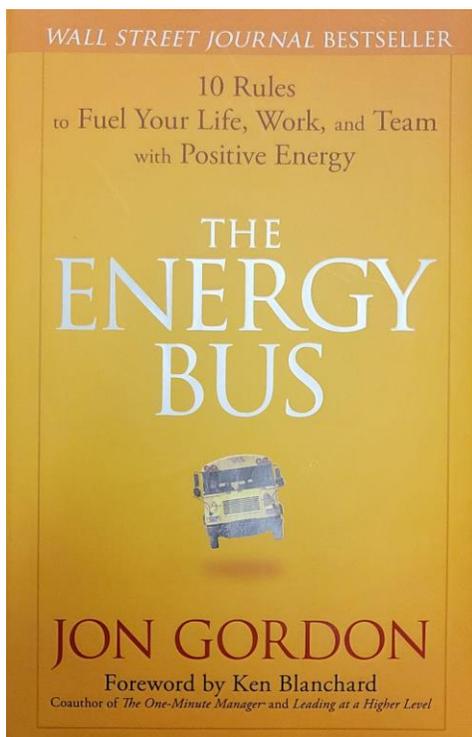


Letter to the Team #7

Above and Beyond

I'd like to take a moment to thank our principals and assistant principals who have gone above and beyond in striving to maintain in-person learning for all students. During the month of January, I have witnessed principals substitute in a variety of classes including special education, physical education, the Choices Program, and art. I've also seen principals serve as IEP facilitators, assist in the cafeteria, clean the building, and clear snow and ice. Principals have strategically shared permanent substitutes with other schools to enable us to continue offering in-person learning, as well as cover for each other when ill, which fosters a spirit of teamwork and resilience. Gratitude and thanks to Richard, Sarah, Lynn, Shannon, Brian Bannen, Dan Chadbourne, Dan Mayo, Ryan, Mike, Zach, Ed, Sam, Brian Doyle, Tim and Paul for providing thoughtful leadership demonstrated by your actions.

The Energy Bus

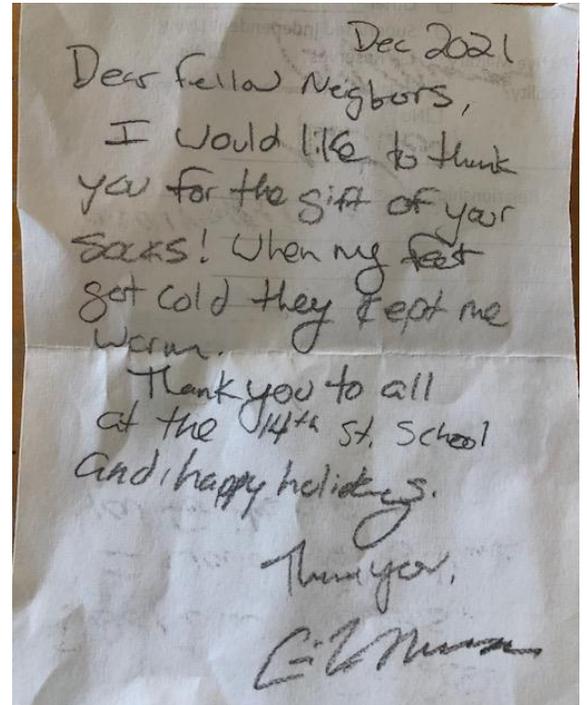


The faculty and staff at Abraham Lincoln School are participating in a book study on “The Energy Bus” by Jon Gordon. This international best-selling book recognizes that “Everyone faces challenges. And every person, organization, company, and team has to overcome negativity and adversity to define themselves and create their success. No one goes through life untested and the answer to these tests is positive energy — the kind of positive energy that consists of the vision, trust, optimism, enthusiasm, purpose, and spirit that defines great leaders and their dreams.”

Ann-Marie Stenzel, first grade teacher at Abraham Lincoln School, is conducting a book study with her students allowing them to get on the bus and practice positivity as a class. If you get the chance, stop by and see the Energy Bus poster that she and her students created together. Ann-Marie and her students emulate the spirit of the Energy Bus.

Making a Difference

Often I find that I can learn the most on the days that I see students (for the record, throughout my educational career I am happiest when I am at the schools with students, faculty, and staff). Kristy Dube, who teaches kindergarten at Fourteenth Street School recently led a winter sock drive for the homeless population within our city with participation of the 14th Street School community. The gift of caring compassion that was exhibited by some of our youngest students made an impact that is meaningful for the community and provides a model for "service above self" that we all can emulate.



Teen Trendsetters



Props to Trisha Martin and the Trendsetters from William S. Cohen School who serve as mentors for elementary students. Trisha sent personal cards to each of the mentors to recognize their commitment to helping a young reader be confident and connected. The importance of relationships cannot be understated; I imagine that the mentor/mentee relationship may pay dividends for a lifetime.

Enthusiastically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Tager". The "J" is a large, stylized cursive letter, and "Tager" is written in a fluid, cursive script.

Jim Tager
Superintendent
Bangor School Department