

## **A Message for All**

Yesterday was the first day of school for the 2013-2014 school year. There were smiles, tears, signs of excitement and fear exhibited by both students and parents. This is a great time for our schools because we have the opportunity to do what we do best – educate the children of this community.

This time of year brings about a sense of new beginnings or a chance to have a fresh start. Many times new beginnings are laced with words of advice from those around us. Last week our staff received advice from Coach Bill Snyder, Kansas State University football coach about the importance of teamwork as we enter into the new school year. He began his message by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to experience some of the wonderful young men from our community – Curry & Collin Sexton, and Cody Whitehair. To these young men, please accept our thanks for representing our community in a positive light.

Coach Snyder is in the business of shaping the lives of young people both on and off the field. He works with students to find ways to advocate for themselves as they develop into adulthood. To do this he oftentimes shares with his young players the following words of advice:

- 1) surround yourself with people who are going to make you better,
- 2) be that person that makes others better, and
- 3) strive to be a little better everyday.

These ideals are not only great for students and staff but can be applied by all. Snyder's style is not only successful but transcends the sport to create young people who value the contributions of others and can work together in a cooperative manner.

It was rewarding to me to see the energy of students and staff as they come back together after summer vacation. There was so much enthusiasm, lots of positive interaction and a desire to get back to the business of education. With the emphasis on teamwork and collaboration, Abilene Public Schools will become a little better everyday.