

Did you know?

October is National Principals Month. This special month gives us an opportunity to recognize the work they do both as a part of an administrative team as well as spotlight just a few “extra mile” actions that you may not realize.

The thing I admire most about our school principals is that they genuinely care about children. They laugh and have fun, they are creative, they are very hard working, they are open to new ideas, and they take pride in what they do.

They carry the weight of the building on their shoulders at all times. If a child is in crisis, they are in crisis, if a staff member is going through a hard time, they are going through a hard time, if there are academic challenges to overcome, they are the first to become involved, leading the way.

They work hard to balance the needs of the students, their staff, and parents while also working within the framework of our district’s policies, goals and mission. Whenever I ask them to add yet another task to their already busy schedule they are always open to listening and action. Being a principal is never an 8-5 job, it’s more like they are working 24/7.

Along with the daily work they do and the tough decisions they make, each of our principals go the “extra mile” beyond their regular duties to care for and motivate the children of this community.

Did you know that Mr. Heinrich (Kennedy Principal) works extra hours finding resources for some of his student’s families that might not know where their next meal is coming from or where they might sleep? He also believes it’s never too early to start thinking about the future and he works hard to get professionals in the community to visit with his students about careers giving students that first look at their future.

Did you know that Mr. Schwartz (McKinley Principal) has taken students to doctors appointments, taken broken glasses to a local optometrist to repair, brought birthday treats for students who didn’t have any, even procured coats, shoes, sweat pants and belts for students, and helps organize the food for kids program? He’s also famous for offering a caring HUG for those in need.

Did you know that Mr. Meneley (Garfield Principal) spends weekend and evening hours painting spaces in his building to give his students and staff a lift when they come into school? He is known to plan and prepare an evening of movies and popcorn for his students who accomplish a specific task. He also will sit all day on the roof of his school to show students the importance of academics.

Did you know that Mr. Wilson (AMS Principal) volunteered to take his middle school student body to Worlds of Fun over weekend hours to motivate them to exhibit many positive behaviors throughout the school year? He also spends hours beyond the school day every year perfecting a performance to share with students to celebrate their academic achievement.

Did you know that Mr. Burton, (AHS Assistant Principal), in his quest to increase school spirit, dressed up as “Captain Cowboy” and led cheers for the entire student body during homecoming week? He is also known to spend hours, at times late into the night,

caring for athletes who are injured at an event until their parents can arrive to the hospital.

Did you know that Mr. Smith (AHS Principal) often times takes sick students home when their parents are not available to pick them up, even gives them rides to school when needed. He is also known to find or provide funds to help students gain school experiences that they might not otherwise be able to experience. He'll even quietly pick up a lunch ticket for some of his staff members to show appreciation for their hard work.

These are just a few of the many, many "extra mile" actions our principals take demonstrating their commitment to the children of this community. As their special month draws to a close, I want to thank our principals for the work they do throughout the year, and the contributions they make to their profession and to the community.