

May 5-9, 2014: Teacher-Employee Appreciation Week
“Apples in our district!”

If you can read, thank a teacher. If you can write your name, thank a teacher.

May 5-9 just happens to be Teacher Appreciation Week and as I pondered this weekly celebration, I realized that while teachers are responsible for subject content, managing students and their classrooms, along with a myriad of other tasks, there are also librarians and counselors who help guide and encourage children. There are the support staff who provide students with nutritious meals, drive them safely to school, keep our buildings in order, manage the technology students use each day, and provide specialized therapy and one-on-one services to children.

Of course, I also thought of those who coach sports and other extra curricular musical and academic endeavors, those who sponsor clubs and organizations. There are parent educators who provide early childhood information to families, and those who run our after school programs. Others add to their already busy schedules by chairing committees and taking on other important leaderships roles in their respective schools.

Then there are the administrators who oversee each building, staff who answer phones, run copiers and manage offices, and nurses who bandage injuries and dispense medication.

Therefore in our district, we like to celebrate Teacher-Educator Appreciation Week. That celebration got underway this past Monday morning when over 280 employees received a hand-painted apple photo holder. Created by the ABC after-school students, each holder included a photo of a young child entering school in September of 2013 and one that had graduated last spring. This is significant because the kids who walk through our doors, from the beginning of their education to the end, belong to everyone who works in our district. In just two weeks we'll be sending another group of graduates on to the next phase of their lives. Each and every one of our employees played an important role in that process.

Apples have been a symbol for education for over a century. Those hand-painted wooden apples certainly put smiles on lots of faces in our school district this week, but they also were a reminder of the relationship between students and educators.

If you can remember a teacher or another school personnel who touched your life in a special way, please take time this week to reflect on those memories, and to join me in saying “thanks” for a job well done.

