

Teacher and Educational Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6–10, 2013. And, yesterday, May 7, schools around the nation celebrated National Teacher Day.

The origins of Teacher Day can be traced back to the 1940s. However, it wasn't until 1980 that the NEA (National Education Association), along with its Kansas and Indiana state affiliates, lobbied Congress to create a permanent day to recognize the many contributions educators make to their communities.

Then in 1985 the National PTA (Parent Teacher Association) established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May.

Abilene's ANEA president, Dallas Meneley, believes that this is a week when teachers can reflect on what they do and take pride in the fact that they strive to help every child become the best he or she can be.

Over time this week has evolved including nurse's appreciation week, school administrator's appreciation week as well as school nutritional employee appreciation week.

So in the Abilene School District, we have taken the liberty to increase the focus of this week-long celebration to all staff. Expanding on the idea that it takes a village to raise a child or a large group of dedicated individuals to successfully run a school system.

There are those that transport students to school, as well as feed and counsel them.

Our paraprofessionals and aids work one-on-one with children and our tech support personnel maintain and teach others to use the hundreds of computers in our schools.

There are those who manage library books and those who manage budgets, finances and student data, others who provide specialized therapy, and those who use their skills to coach student's academic and physical endeavors.

We have people who take time to sponsor clubs and organizations, chair committees, and take over other leadership roles within our schools.

Administrators oversee each building, while others answer phones, run copiers, manage offices, and deliver mail. We have nurses who bandage injuries and dispense medication, parent educators who provide early childhood information to families, and staff who clean and maintain our school buildings.

Every aspect is critical to make school happen and I am thankful for the expertise that everyone brings to the district.

As a small token of appreciation, food trays are being delivered to the schools and support buildings this week and our ABC after-school students have created small gifts for everyone.

Please join me in thanking the teachers along with the many others that work for the families in this community, and help educate our youth.
