

Superintendent's Corner

April 2017

Two Simple Words...

On behalf of the Washington Island School Board, staff, parents, and most importantly, the students, I would like to say a heartfelt "Thank You." We are extremely grateful to the Washington Island community for passing the April 4th School Referendum. The School Board and I have worked hard to be fiscally responsible and transparent. We will continue to work hard to earn the community's trust and make sure we have a school we can all take pride in. We have a lot of work ahead of us over the next two years, and with the community's support, we are very confident in building a secure future for our school.

Because of the community support in passing the referendum, our school will continue its important work. Over the next two years our staff will be working extensively to update our educational curriculum, districtwide. Teachers have already been busy outlining the curriculum format to start the process this spring. This is a huge project, and by our next referendum, we will have completed all the curriculum guides/maps and will be well on our way developing detailed comprehensive curriculums that will increase teacher effectiveness in providing 21st Century learning skills. Having high expectations is always important, but this project will provide the parents, the board and the community with a clear blueprint of those expectations.

In addition, over the next two years our school will be focusing on a number of additional initiatives. The first is ACP, Academic Career Planning, a comprehensive understanding of student's interests, learning styles, and strengths so students can review and explore various educational and career options. Another initiative will be our teachers developing "Individualized Learning Plans." Starting next year, each student at the elementary level will have individualized math and reading goals collaboratively developed with parents. Our students enjoy a lot of individualized attention, and our school goal is to maximize our progress with each student in a focused way. Finally, we will continue the tradition of Washington Island Bucks pride. In a matter of weeks, our seniors will be graduating, and their hard work and achievement will be recognized and celebrated. Your investment in our school will ensure that tradition will continue.

Our school is a special place, not just because we are on an island or because we are the smallest K-12 school district in the state. We are special because of our community; we are special because of you! Our island community members make a difference in the lives of our students every single day. The recent Sportsman's Club Banquet was yet another example of the immense amount of support for our school's new Clay Target Shooting League. This is one of many ways our community is involved, and frankly, we could not offer as much as we do, being such a small school, without your support. I can think of two words that humbly express my sincere gratitude... Thank You.

Mati Palm-Leis
Superintendent

