December 25, 2018

Fellow Shorians:

At this time of year, it feels most appropriate to share feelings of gratitude and admiration for the daily miracles and acts of kindness that take place in our community.  This year, like so many others, we have witnessed these things day in and day out.  I count myself blessed to be a part of something bigger than all of us, that collectively, we should all take pride in.  Watching our students, parents, and staff support one another when times are tough and taking great pride in celebrating our accomplishments when things are at their best is the Lake Shore way. You don’t have to look hard to find great examples of what it means to be a part of Lake Shore.

Giving back to the community is important to the students at Masonic Heights Elementary, Rodgers Elementary and Violet Elementary. Students sent personalized care packages for the holidays referred to as Stockings for Soldiers to our brave young men and women in uniform. Later this month, they donated 120 new toys for the Saint Clair Shores Cops for Kids program and 20 boxes of canned goods for Gleaner’s Community Food Bank.

Kennedy Middle School is committed to community outreach. National Junior Honor Society members raised $2,875 for Toys for Tots. All purchased toys will be donated to Lighthouse Outreach in Roseville. Our life spreads light when it is given in service. The secret of joy is living to serve. According to Kathleen Grobbel, Pediatric Family Advisory Chair, there was an estimated 1,300 students, families, and community members, 300 from Lake Shore Public Schools, that showed their support for Sweet Dreams at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. It was truly an honor for the Lake Shore Family, facilitated by Kennedy Middle School, to show support for the pediatric patients.

Lake Shore High School, along with support from Chartwells, provided a meal and donated gifts purchased from staff members across the district to help 8 families, which included 23 children, have a Christmas to remember. Giving from the heart is one of the most joyous things we can do especially when you learn how it impacts others. During this evening of giving back, a 6-year-old mentioned how much he appreciated his unopened gifts by saying, “I am going to put them under the tree because all we ever have is garland.”

This is a special place.  Filled with special people.  It reaffirms that the most important things in life, aren’t things at all.  You are the difference.  It’s a difference I am so humbly proud to be a part of.

Wishing you and yours a safe and relaxing holiday season and all the best life has to offer in 2019.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe DiPonio

Superintendent

Lake Shore Public Schools