

So Much to be Thankful for in the Edgerton School District

As so many of us prepare to celebrate the holiday season, I encourage readers to take a few minutes to reflect on all that you are thankful for today. The hustle and bustle of the season can be stressful and it's easy to focus on what needs to get done instead of what has been accomplished. In the Edgerton School District, I am thankful for the great fall we've experienced.

At this week's School Board meeting we shared our State of Wisconsin academic report card scores. I am thrilled to announce that of 30 area school districts encompassing the counties of Rock, Dane, Jefferson, and Walworth, ESD ranked the 5th highest. This is the second year in a row that we've ranked in the top five districts locally. In addition to this accomplishment, our high school has been named to the US News' National Best High Schools list three years in a row. These results are accomplished through the tireless efforts of our staff and support from families along with the entire Edgerton community. I am thankful for the commitment to excellence and student well-being our staff demonstrates daily. Their dedication to our students and families is evidenced daily.

Along with our academic success, our students have experienced many achievements worth noting outside of the classroom. At the November 14th School Board meeting we recognized more than 70 students who participated in this fall's musical, *Newsies*. During the weekend of November 4-6 the students performed to sold out audiences. They began preparing for the musical in July and their performances displayed the hard work and dedication put forth in preparation for the incredible shows they performed. I am thankful that we have awesome directors and incredibly talented students to put on such an awesome musical.

Another highlight of the November 14th School Board meeting was recognizing more than 50 fall athletes for their accomplishments in swim, soccer, cross country, volleyball, tennis, cheer, golf and football. In all sports our athletes compete at extremely high levels and their accomplishments are rewarded with various conference awards and recognition. We are thankful for the commitment our student athletes demonstrate each season along with the time and efforts our coaches devote to each sport.

Finally, we are incredibly thankful for the community's support of the field turf project. It was beyond our imagination to think in two months our community would come forth with more than \$430,000 toward our goal of \$500,000. As a result of such generosity, it is likely that the School Board will soon approve moving forward with the project to replace our current field with a new turf solution that provides more opportunities for school and community use of the field.

The holiday season is in full swing and the days never seem long enough for the list of things to accomplish. Be sure to slow down and enjoy the season. I am thankful for all that we have accomplished in ESD and encourage the entire community to join us in celebrating the good news.

It is a privilege to serve as the District Administrator in the Edgerton School District.

Dr. Dennis Pauli