

The holiday season is a wonderful time to reflect upon the the blessings which surround us every day. Our veterans, whose sacrifice ensure the freedom Americans enjoy daily. Our police officers, firefighters and first responders that ensure a safe community. Our educators who work tirelessly to ensure that all students have the foundational skills necessary to succeed in the path they choose beyond high school. Our residents who always support strong schools and opportunities for students. One does not need to look far to see the blessings which surround us daily.

I am grateful for the support residents have clearly demonstrated toward our schools and students. In November two referendum questions to improve our facilities and operational budget were approved. Last week more than 160 children benefited from the Gifts for Kids toy distribution. Recently, the Edgerton Community fund donated nearly \$10,000 in grants to various school and community projects. Each year the school board approves more than \$150,000 in gifts from our residents, local businesses and festivals. Various booster clubs invest thousands of dollars annually in our facilities and programs to provide students better opportunities. The commitment our community has demonstrated to supporting strong schools is evident daily.

A few years ago I read a story that reminded me of the generous and selfless people that make up our community. It's the story of a farmer that grew award winning corn. You may be surprised to learn of his selfless approach.

Growing Good Corn
(author unknown)

A farmer grew award-winning corn. Each year he entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

He is very much aware of the connectedness of life. His corn cannot improve unless his neighbor's corn also improves.

So it is with our lives. Those who choose to live in peace must help their neighbors to live in peace. Those who choose to live well must help others to live well, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others to find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

The lesson for each of us is this: if we are to grow good corn, we must help our neighbors grow good corn.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!