

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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Happy Friday and Happy Halloween!

I have two middle school-aged sons, and although I know they love each other (as much as two middle school brothers can love each other!), they fight...a lot. Sometimes it starts off as rough housing and escalates to mortal combat until Jen or I intervene (or until one of them starts crying). Other times, it's verbal combat where every opportunity is taken to cut one another down a notch or two.

In spite of it all, I know that they love each other, and I know each would come to the rescue of the other if he were in dire need. There would be follow up trash talking, but nevertheless, they definitely look out for each other.

Similarly, all four of our children have been on many athletic teams and in the cast of many stage productions during their lives. Some teams and casts have 'gelled' better than others, but I never doubted that their teammates--soccer, skiing, or track & field-- or castmates would have their backs when they needed them the most (on or off the playing surface or stage). Sometimes they may disagree and even get down on each other. They may be critical of a poor pass, a missed scoring opportunity, or even a half-hearted performance, but they always circle back with something positive--an apology for taking the low road or an encouraging word for the next time.

2021 is a challenging time. We are in the throes of a global pandemic, we are less than a year into our current President's term in office following a most contentious and divisive election in 2020, and we are approaching the first anniversary of the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Local school board elections have become cut-throat (not in Kittery, thankfully!), school boards across the nation are hiring a police detail to keep the peace during meetings, and verbal combat has taken a firm social media grip on a society that seems to have no tolerance for an opposing view and with a *'if-you're-not-with-me, you're-against-me'* mentality.

So where do we go from here? Election Day is next Tuesday. COVID-19 isn't going away anytime soon. Let's take a page out of the Waddell boys' playbook. Approach life with unbridled enthusiasm. Be passionate! Believe in yourself and believe in what you say and stand for. And when all is said and

done, shake hands, hug it out, and understand that we're all humans struggling amid a most challenging time (adults and children alike).

Allow me to offer a few noteworthy announcements before the weekend begins:

- Election Day in Kittery is Tuesday, November 2nd, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Kittery Community Center. Our **Project Grad Committee is hosting a bake sale** at the polls, so in addition to bringing an informed mind to KCC, bring your wallets and purses too! Nothing says "I VOTED" like a delicious brownie.
- Looking ahead, there are **no classes on Veterans Day**, Thursday, November 11th. In addition, the following day (**Friday, November 12th**) is a **professional development day** for staff. That gives your students four days in a row to rake every single leaf on your lawn! No deciduous trees on your property? I recommend that you begin composing the chores list now.
- We have received nearly 250 requests for a **Pfizer COVID 19 vaccine (for the 5 to-11 age group)**. That has given us the information we need to proceed with scheduling vaccine clinics here at Mitchell Primary School and Shapleigh School. We are partnering with York County Emergency Management Agency for these clinics (this is the same agency that has been running the ongoing COVID 19 vaccine clinic in Sanford at the former Marshalls Department Store). Tentative date for the first vaccine is November 10th. The second dose must be given at least 21 days after the first vaccine. Therefore, we've scheduled the second vaccine for December 1st. I will send a formal letter with parent consent instructions soon, so watch your email!
- The World Series isn't even over, and I'm going to share information about baseball! On Sunday, November 7th, **Kittery Little League will host a baseball clinic** run by our very own Seth Cole (technology magician at Shapleigh School and Traip Academy Varsity. Baseball Coach). The clinic will be held in the Kittery Community Center gymnasium, and it's free! A flyer with specific times is attached. Play ball!
- Don't forget about the upcoming **Athletic Boosters Craft Fair on Saturday, November 13th** in the Traip Academy gymnasium. The flyer is attached.
- No one in Kittery should be cold, but not everyone in need qualifies for the public programs that help people pay their heating bills. That's where **Fuel & More** comes in. Whether you heat with oil, propane, gas, kerosene, electricity, or wood, they can assist you. Call 207-703-8288 to arrange a short, private meeting with a volunteer. You can contact them by email at info@fuelandmore.org. Visit their website www.fuelandmore.org. They can connect you with other sources of assistance and may be able to help you winterize your home or find warm coats or snowsuits for your kids.

Good luck (again!) this weekend to the Traip Academy **varsity soccer teams and XC running team**. We're proud of you and will support you win or lose with honor and pride!

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric F. Waddell

