

School Board President's Report
March 18, 2019
Mike Riemer

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

I am very pleased to have High School Sophomore Everitt Meer with us tonight who will be receiving the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. I'd like to introduce Jesse Buchanan, a representative from Prudential Financial, to present Everitt with the Bronze Medallion.

Extra Mile Award

This month, Mrs. Rose Davidson, a teacher at Washington Elementary School nominated two of her colleagues, Mrs. Gretchen Brown and Mrs. Kim Robbins for an Extra Mile Award for going above and beyond for a Washington student.

From Mrs. Davidson's nomination:

"Mrs. Gretchen Brown and Mrs. Kim Robbins are exemplary examples of the criteria associated with why this honor is bestowed on employees of Mt. Lebanon School District.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Robbins both chose to assist a student who needed months of homebound instruction due to a significant medical issue -- this student received so much more than just math, reading, and Spanish instruction. Not only did both teachers provide the instruction the student was missing, but the additional love and care they shared was exemplary.

They both gave hours of their time each week to ensure that not only did the student learn, but that the student stayed present in daily lessons, activities, and holidays. They challenged the student, visited numerous times in the hospital, assisted with the family, began fundraisers, Skyped the student into their classrooms, and so much more. Kim and Gretchen cared for this student far beyond what was expected, and gave this student so much more than just homebound instruction. They enveloped the student with the love and support that all students deserve!"

I would like to ask Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Robbins to come up to the front to accept an Extra Mile Award certificate on behalf of the School Board and Mrs. Davidson, please come up as well.

Visit to Hoover Elementary School

I recently had the opportunity to visit Hoover Elementary School. There is no better place to start the day then with a stop in morning kindergarten class. I had the chance to hear a lesson on kindness lead by the school counselor. Students were filling up each other's "buckets" with kind words for one another.

The 5th grade English Language Arts class was involved in a "town hall" meeting in which each student played the role of a colonist who recently arrived in North America. The student "colonists" had previously selected their "motive" for coming to the New World like religious freedom, adventure, to escape the King, as part of their discussion.

I was very impressed with the mural artwork in the halls of the school thanks to art teacher Garrett Hain. A mosaic mural is being created with each 5th grade student placing a tile in the piece permanently leaving their "mark" on Hoover Elementary for years to come.

In the library I was able to experience the Hoover television studio where 5th grade students create video recordings of the morning announcements. In addition to updates about the lunch menu and other important school events, the student news anchors share important reminders about creating a kind, respectful, safe, and inclusive school environment.

I stopped Hoover's Matt's Maker Space which is a wonderful place where students and teachers enhance learning experiences with hands-on, collaborative activities.

A small group of our 3rd grade students were working through number sense concepts. During this particular session, students were practicing drawing arrays as a strategy for solving multiplication problems.

In the 2nd grade classroom teachers were leading their students through English Language Arts, using differentiated instruction to meet the diverse needs of our students. This could mean flexible seating options in the classroom, as well as adjusting the task or materials to meet the students at their current academic level.

In Phys Ed students in 4th grader were engaged in an activity that connected concepts being taught in both the Health and PE classes.

I would like to thank Principal Nicci Giehll and her faculty for welcoming me to Hoover and sharing the wonderful learning opportunities our students are experiencing at the school. As the Hoover Hawks would say, it was a “Hawksome” visit.