

Board President Report

1/21/2020

Sarah Olbrich

Good evening. Today is not just a day off from school. Today we remember the life and legacy of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. For me it is also personal. My grandfather marched with Dr. King in Selma. Both of my grandparents were seated on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the "I Have a Dream" speech while my mother and her siblings passed out pamphlets. One of Dr King's early memorable quotes come from an article he wrote while at Morehouse college in 1947 - "Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education." I do believe that here in Mt. Lebanon we try to emulate that goal in educating our children. In the past year all 10 of our schools completed the ADL No Place for Hate program. The student council at Mellon Middle Schools has made this year a kindness year. Reminders and messages were placed all around the school to remind everyone that #Kindness Rocks. Jefferson Middle celebrated their 13th Annual International Night to celebrate the diversity of JMS families and students through food and entertainment. The High School recently opened the MinDen for quiet reflection and a place to regroup. The High School also sponsored the panel discussion for the community "Hate Has No Home Here – Listening to and Learning from our Neighbors' Stories." The panelists shared their personal narratives and the ways in which they work to address injustice and offered ways we can confront discrimination and injustice.

All of the elementary schools shared how they are "Being A Force For Good" by using the hashtag on social media with photos of how they are making a difference in their schools. Two examples of this effort includes Hoover's "Do Good December Challenge" which posed a challenge to students and staff to see "How Many People Can you Smile at Today?" and Washington's "Giving Tuesday 2019 Project" included writing thank you notes to the Mt. Lebanon Police and Fire Departments and veterans.

Mt. Lebanon School District's commitment to Social and Emotional Learning is an attempt to address the needs and growth of the whole child. We recognize that it's not just teaching children the three Rs, but that by looking inward, by taking that deep breath we can hear what others are saying and learn something of the world beyond our community.