

Superintendent Updates

January 22, 2021



Raph Rittenhouse
Superintendent

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Dear Gull Lake Families,

Gull Lake Community Schools continues to offer both in-person and remote virtual instruction options for students and families as we monitor COVID-19 vital statistics within our school populations. GLCS educators want to thank all of you for your diligence adhering to the strict mitigation protocols so that we can work together safely to promote learning and development for all our kids!

I want to emphasize the important role each of you play in this effort by revisiting a story with which many of you are familiar. If you watched the animated Disney film *Balto*, you might recall the heroic efforts of a sled dog team led by a dog named Balto and his driver, Gunnar Kaasen. Their triumphant entry into Nome, Alaska with thousands of doses of much needed vaccines is the stuff of legend.

What is less well known is the massive supply chain effort that was coordinated to make this operation a success. The logistics behind the effort involved multiple sled dog teams and the leadership of another driver and sled dog team to navigate the most treacherous legs of the journey. Few people have heard of Leonhard Seppala and his lead dog, Togo, who had to venture out over miles of ice in low visibility conditions in order to meet up with the next team.

For the media outlets of the day to highlight the story, they condensed the information into a much more simplified version with one hero. This new version was easier to distribute around the nation and globe and became the legend we recognize today.

Our current success mitigating COVID-19 within the boundaries of GLCS is a direct result of your participating in a massive coordinated effort that involves constant communication, patience, determination and daily observance of the strict mitigation protocols that keep the Pandemic at bay.

Keep up the good work and know the many benefits it provides every day to our kids and community. When we look back on this time and tell the story, it will involve the roles you have played in keeping our kids safe and well.

District highlight for this week:

Our District Highlight for this week is a celebration of Gull Lake Middle School Assistant Principal, Jack Boerman. Mr. Boerman was recently recognized as the MEMSPA/NAESP Assistant Principal of the year! Mr. Boerman has given many years of quality service and care to GLCS students and families and is very deserving of this award. We are fortunate to have Mr. Boerman on our team and celebrate his many accomplishments on behalf of the District.

Have a great weekend and GO GULL LAKE!



Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools