

Chalk Talk

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Linden A. Moore, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Montrose Community Schools

I've been told that the older you get the faster time seems to go by. As I get older, this becomes more and more evident. It seems like only yesterday Montrose voters generously approved a sinking fund to address vital repairs that will keep our school district's facilities looking and functioning better than ever. I cannot say enough how thankful I am for such a generous and supportive community!

Has anyone had time to look into where the autumn season went? In years past I recall enjoying the changing colors of leaves. I would argue the most picturesque view of fall at its very finest is on our soccer field where teams play with a back drop of the most beautiful red, orange, and yellow trees that look like it was painted with painstaking attention to detail.

What makes this view less palatable is when those leaves are covered with snow in November! On Monday, November 26th, we had our first school cancellation due to road conditions. While I am hopeful that this is the first year we only cancel school once since my grandfather walked to school, uphill, both ways, in three feet of snow, carrying a hot potato that kept his hands warm and was also his lunch, I doubt that will be the case.

Please know that our first consideration in a school cancellation, as in all matters, is student safety. In addition to driving the roads, we communicate with surrounding school districts, the road commission, and check predicted the weather to make an informed decision. We try to make the decision by 5:30 am. We have multiple ways to communicate school cancellations. In addition to communicating school closings using SchoolMessenger, the information is posted on the school website (www.montroseschools.org), television stations, radio broadcasts, and some social media websites.

The decision to cancel school is always a difficult decision and one that is taken very seriously. The safety of our students, staff, and community is what drives this decision. As always, the parent makes the final determination if they feel comfortable sending their child to school in inclement weather conditions.

On another note, a blanket of snow does tend to mean the season for gift giving is drawing near. To that end, I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't encourage you to consider giving a book as a gift, especially to a young reader. I know my kids have been asking for an iPhone since they have been old enough to formulate the words, but they have not got one yet, and I do not see it happening this year. *Hopefully they aren't reading this article. Then again, hopefully they are. Let's burst that bubble now, so they can get over it before Christmas!*

I find a book to be an incredibly thoughtful gift. It offers more than just a garment to wear or an item on the shelf. That book can be a shared experience, knowledge, or feeling between me and the giver. When a person buys me a book, they have considered me and the things I am interested in. The giver offers an opportunity to learn about them and what they are interested in.

Taking a person to a movie or watching a show together has its perks, but it is very passive. While it doesn't look to be so, reading is an activity. As one seems to be comfortably resting in a chair, quite the contrary is taking place on the page as adventure, mystery, and suspense surrounds the reader.

So consider giving a book to a friend or loved one. Together, you can share story where the twists and turns have you guessing at every page. Maybe you will find a book that shows a better way to love our family, friends, and community. I hope you find the book that gives you the confidence to do things others believe impossible. I love the quote from Neil Gaiman who says, "Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten!"

I hope everyone has Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our holiday break starts Monday, Dec. 24 and students will be returning to school on Monday, Jan. 7. Enjoy the break and we look forward to everyone coming back rested and ready to slay the dragons that may come at us in the New Year!

Go Rams!

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