

Maverick Moments January New Years Resolutions

“This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.”

Taylor Swift

Happy New Year! I thought that I would quote Taylor Swift since we hear so much about her these days, which brings me to my first New Years Resolution

#1. Never become a “swiftie”. First of all, I don’t look good in pastels, pink or blue and secondly, I have never been about the bling. However I did like the number 13 for a long time simply because my favorite NFL player was Dan Marino. I was in Denver this past summer when Taylor Swift played there. I couldn’t believe that some 70,000 fans attended her concert. What an amazing scene! I was actually there to watch baseball and didn’t even know that a concert was going on. I am so far from a “swiftie” that when I was watching a NFL game, I was wondering why they were making such a big deal out of Travis Kelce’s girlfriend. After all, he is the best tight end in professional football.

“There are better things ahead than any we leave behind”

C.S. Lewis

While not quite as popular as Taylor Swift, he did write one of my favorite teenage stories “The Chronicles of Narnia”. Lewis brings into close focus my second New Years Resolution.

#2. Don’t focus on what you no longer have, rather appreciate what you do have. Recently I sold my home, downsized considerably and put most of my belongings in storage. My two boys moved far away taking two of my grandkids far from “Grandma and Papa”. However, my daughter and her family followed us to this new community and both boys and family were all here for the holidays. They are all safe, healthy and doing well in life. I appreciate the simple fact that our family loves spending time together and love to play, laugh and be around each other. I want the students here at MLS to appreciate what they have here in such a warm, supportive and family focused community and school. The grass is greenest right beneath your feet!

“We all get the exact same 365 days. The only difference is what we do with them.”

Hillary Depiano

Another author of fairy tales (although funny ones), reminds me of my third resolution

#3. Be in the present moment! I think we all go through life without enjoying each day fully. Just look at our world of school and education. I enjoy watching our kids learn, watching them play, & watching them perform. Being an educator gives me the opportunity to be fully immersed in what is happening here and now. It is up to me to appreciate every second, to find the humor, to laugh and to participate. I want all of our students to live large, to get involved, to have fun

each day. Most importantly, I want our students to be present for whatever comes of the day. You don't want to wake up and find out that a big part of life was "skipped over" because you didn't think it was worth participating in. Don't "click" through parts and grow up too fast!

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"

Gandhi

Now we are going from Taylor Swift to Gandhi in one article, so things are getting a bit deeper to say the least. However Mahatma Gandhi was a famous civil rights leader in the world who led me to my fourth resolution this year.

#4. Keep growing, keep learning! One of the most important things in education is not in everything that we do is to be a lifelong learner. We must continually look to grow, to improve to set goals and strive to reach them. Making mistakes and failing along the way is just a normal part of the process. You know the whole growth thing is kinda messy but like anything in life, you sometimes have to get messy to do anything worthwhile. I love that our students, our staff, our community here at MLS are always looking to grow and to model the importance of lifelong learning.

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

I chose to finish with Emerson for two reasons: first, he was one of my favorite writers (Nature) and #2, my oldest grandson is named after him "Emerson" (I nicknamed him Waldo, he's too young to hate it).

#5 Be the person that you truly want to be! I know that I am approaching sixty years of age, so I should have a good idea of who I want to be. Only I lose track of myself from time to time. I get caught up in the moment, in emotions, in politics or whatever else might distract me from being true to myself. I want to spend more time being my authentic self this year, reminding myself of exactly who I want to be. I want this lesson to trickle down to our students as well. I want all of them to be who they truly desire to be, who they dream of being, and not be distracted or ambushed by detractors that keep them from fully realizing their desired potential. I want them to know that ultimately they are in control. Who you are in the moment, your background, does not decide your destiny. Only you do! Make sure that your actions each day reflect who you want to be and keep moving toward that vision of yourself, each day, each week, each year.

I know that typical New Year resolutions have a poor performance record, however I am pretty sure that I will stay true to #1. **Happy New Year!**