

Find Light in the Darkness  
Jean Skorapa, RSU5 Superintendent

*Gratitude helps us see what there is instead of what isn't. - Annette Bridges*

Each year in early November daylight savings time concludes as time *falls back* one hour. This act signifies that the days are growing shorter and colder. In Maine, particularly as December approaches, our days begin and end in darkness. During this time it can be easy to persevere on all that is wrong at the expense of all that is good.

As I reflect, I recognize that I have so much for which to be grateful. I have a supportive spouse of nearly 38 years, two amazing adult children who are the product of schools in RSU 5, and an adopted rescue dog who gives me great joy. My family does not worry about food insecurity nor do they lack housing like so many families.

I am so incredibly fortunate to lead this diverse and welcoming district with so many talented and dedicated people. Because of them, our children arrive at school safely. Because of them, our children are fed nutritious meals and are well cared for. Because of them, our children learn in clean, safe schools and play on fields and grounds that are meticulously maintained. Because of them, our offices and schools operate effectively and smoothly. Because of them, our children receive extraordinary instruction and support that gives them a promise of a bright tomorrow. Because of them, our schools are led with compassion and kindness. The dedicated RSU 5 team makes a difference each and every day. For that, I am eternally grateful.

I am grateful for the engaged and supportive parents, guardians, and community members in the communities of Durham, Freeport and Pownal who send their children to our schools. Without their involvement, we could not do the hard work necessary to provide excellence in education for all children. As a district, we remain steadfast in our commitment to be a welcoming school community that empowers each child to achieve their full potential.

In this time of darkness as the days grow short and cold, I encourage you to reflect on all that is good. We have so much for which to be thankful for as we are more alike than we are apart.