Holiday Greetings,

In my position, so much of my time is spent dealing with concerns and it's sometimes easy to lose sight of all of the fantastic things happening in our community. I spent some time this afternoon catching up with my social media posts, which is a challenge for me as I don't have that ability to *speed post* like so many folks I know, especially the ones on the younger side. During that process, I got to explore the various social media handles in our district and was so impressed, touched, and filled with joy at the multitude of positive things happening in all of our school buildings. As much as we lament the ill effects of social media, it can also be used to spread joy and really capture the wonderful moments we provide our students and in turn, ourselves. It was really reassuring.

So I'm just going to thank everyone again for everything you do for our learning community. As we close out 2024, let's try our best to focus on all the fantastic things that have happened - as well as the lessons learned and the growth we experienced as a result of the adversity we may have gone through. I'm very much looking forward to spending Christmas Eve with my mom and kids, keeping our tradition of going to see the tree and getting our caricatures done in Times Square. (Yes, going to Times Square on Christmas Eve is a Santana tradition.) This will be our 10th year doing it and the drawings over the years are pretty hilarious. We'll also be observing Hanukkah on Christmas Day, so it will be two times the joyous occasion. So looking forward to it!

I want to wish everyone in our community a very Merry Christmas, Hanukkah Sameach (Happy Hanukkah), Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy Festivus for the Rest of Us! May you be blessed with good cheer and health. Please enjoy your family, your friends, and your community. Let's filter out the noise and be there for one another, spreading joy this holiday season. We have a new year coming, 2025, so let's work towards making it another year of positive growth. It can only get better and at the very least, we again have the power to make it better. Besides, as of tomorrow, the days will start getting longer and the sun will slowly start shining a bit brighter.

Remember to always keep those going through hardship in mind this holiday season too. Let's send them our collective thoughts and prayers for things to get better.

As always, it's a real pleasure serving the South Country community as your superintendent of schools. Thank you all again for everything you do for our community.

Happy New Year!

Tony Santana

#clipper**PRIDE**