Greetings,

It's been a while since I've shared any broader social commentary in this space, but I continue to find myself reflecting on the world around us. Lately, I've been somewhat obsessed with the story of the object from outer space that's been hurtling toward Earth. At this point, it's so hard to decipher what is real and what is not, and that in itself feels symbolic of the times we are living in. At times, things seem a little upside down, and sometimes the only words that come to mind are simply, *"six seven."*

On a more serious note, the uncertainty I feel when reading about that "space object" mirrors the uncertainty many of our families face right here at home. There is talk at the federal level of potential cuts to SNAP benefits, and the truth is, we don't know what's real, what will actually happen, or how deep the impact might be. But what we do know is that food insecurity is a very real challenge, and when resources are reduced, the burden falls heaviest on those already struggling. We know the stress that can place on households and, in turn, on our students. As always, our district is committed to supporting children and families beyond the classroom, and I'll be including a link to local resources for anyone who may need them. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you or someone you know could use that support. We are a community that looks out for one another.

🍎 Local Food Pantries and Resources

That sense of community was on full display at our Trunk or Treat events this week. Even though the weather had a bite to it, the turnout was tremendous. It was wonderful to see so many students dressed in their creative costumes, parents and guardians joining in the fun, and staff members pitching in to make the evening festive. These moments remind me that school is about so much more than academics—it's about building traditions, creating memories, and fostering connections that make our district feel like home.

On a personal note, I'm hoping to head into the city tonight to take in the annual Halloween Parade. It's always a spectacle of creativity and energy, though this year I'll be missing my own kids, who usually share the moment with me. Still, I look forward to being part of a celebration that, much like our school events, brings people together in the spirit of fun and imagination. And besides, it will be a welcome distraction from the things that often feel heavy.

Looking ahead to next week, our Audit Committee will be meeting as part of our ongoing efforts to examine our financial practices and provide clear updates to the Board and community. This is important work, and I want to acknowledge the diligence

of our trustees and staff in ensuring we move forward with both accountability and transparency. I will share updates as they become available so that our community continues to stay informed.

As October comes to a close, I want to wish everyone a safe and festive Halloween. Whether you're out trick-or-treating, attending a parade, or simply handing out candy from your porch, I hope you take in the joy that this season brings. Sometimes, especially when the world feels heavy, it's the little things—a smile, a laugh, a piece of candy—that remind us of the goodness all around. And if the world still feels a little upside down? Well, *six seven.*

And as always, it really is a privilege serving this community as your superintendent of schools!

With Clipper PRIDE,
Tony Santana
#clipperPRIDE