

Greetings,

This week felt exceptionally long — I could have sworn there were *two* Thursdays in there somewhere! And yet, despite the challenges that come at us day by day, it was a week filled with so much joy.

I had the opportunity to attend three incredible winter concerts. An absolutely adorable performance at Kreamer, where I may or may not have found myself singing along to the holiday tunes, followed by two outstanding concerts at Bellport High School that were simply amazing. The talent across our district never ceases to impress me.

I also got to visit a true *Winter Wonderland* at Brookhaven Elementary, and truth be told, I didn't want to leave. The kids were having so much fun, and it was another powerful reminder of the fantastic work our staff does every day to create joyful, meaningful learning experiences for our students, staff, and families.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a big Clipper PRIDE shout-out to our custodial and maintenance teams. A snowstorm that seemed to come out of nowhere led to a two-hour delay — a delay that many of us appreciated as it gave families a bit more time to navigate the morning and tend to our own driveways — while our crews were already hard at work, feverishly ensuring our schools were ready to open safely. Then came the heavy rainstorm that knocked out power across parts of our community. Thanks to their quick response, our schools continued to operate as normal. That same storm even knocked down a tree on my own property. While that certainly wasn't ideal, I'm grateful that no one was hurt and there was no serious damage.

There are moments when I find myself thinking that we may need 2025 to be behind us already — but when I look back, there has truly been *so much good* despite it all. And honestly, it's been lots of good stuff.

I'm very much looking forward to my kids finally coming home and spending some meaningful time together. I wish the same for our entire South Country community. Let's continue to support one another in that true *Clipper way*.

Best wishes for a restful weekend — with no more weather events — and yes, we have a short week coming up!

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

Have a great weekend.

Tony Santana
#clipperPRIDE