CCSD 89 families:

During American Education Week I had the privilege of visiting our five schools to read to students. I loved sharing stories with them and, more than that, I loved hearing from these young learners.

On Friday, after reading to about 90 fifth-grade students, I asked them to name one thing they had learned during first trimester. Although they’ve been in school just three months, I challenged them not to repeat what someone else had shared.

The students had more than enough ideas. They’ve learned how to build catapults. And solve for variables. And how plants can grow without soil. And so much more.

Your kids are amazing. At all grades, they are enthusiastic for challenges, and they embrace kindness.

So, in addition to the many fun things you’ll be doing on this long holiday weekend, I encourage you to take a few minutes with them to reflect on the positives you saw on their report cards and heard at their conferences. Sometime during the break, make sure to ask them what they’ve learned this year, and what they’d like to improve upon for second semester.

I know that our staff will spend some time this weekend reflecting on the mature, brilliant, and thoughtful students we are grateful to teach, and the how thankful we are for your support and partnership.

Here are some other important reminders:

**Help CCSD 89 families in need with gift card donation**

Did you know that more than 200 families in our district may be getting by with limited resources? Thanks to a great partnership with the Parent-Teacher Councils, CCSD 89 schools will be collecting gift cards for families in need. School social workers will be collecting $10 and $25 gift cards from Aldi, Jewel, Target, and Walmart to be distributed to families during the holidays. If you would like to donate, please drop a gift card at your school office before December 15.

**Severe weather reminders**

As winter weather approaches, it’s important for CCSD 89 families to ensure their school has the most current contact information. The District uses a ‘call-out’ phone system to notify families of any closings. Calls are sent to phone numbers that guardians have registered. If there is a closing, information will also be posted on
the District’s website (ccsd89.org), Facebook page (facebook.com/CCSD89), and Twitter account (@CCSD89).

When school is in, parents should send students in clothing appropriate to wear outside. Students will continue to have recess outside as the weather allows.

**Board scheduled to vote on proposed boundary change in December**

The Board of Education will discuss the proposed 2018-19 school boundaries at its regular meeting on November 20, before voting on December 18. You can read about the proposal and see a map of the proposed boundaries here: [http://www.ccsd89.org/boundaryproposal](http://www.ccsd89.org/boundaryproposal)

The agendas, minutes, presentations, and documents from all the Enrollment and Boundary committee meetings can be found at [www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryCommittee](http://www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryCommittee)

A document with frequently asked questions can be found at [www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryFAQ](http://www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryFAQ)

**Student shares powerful story of teacher connections**

At the start of the school year, Glen Crest Middle School student Annabel Moore spoke to the entire CCSD 89 staff about the teachers who connected with her, and changed her life. You can watch her incredible speech at: [https://youtu.be/w4A06HbrPgg](https://youtu.be/w4A06HbrPgg) Thank you to Annabel for sharing your story!

**Board updates**

The Board will next meet at 7 p.m. on November 20 at Glen Crest Middle School.

The Board will then meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 18, at Glen Crest Middle School. The Board is scheduled to vote on boundary proposals at this meeting.

Full agendas and minutes for all Board meetings can be found at [www.ccsd89.org/board](http://www.ccsd89.org/board)

**Upcoming events**

- November 20: Evening conferences at elementary schools
- November 20: Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., Glen Crest Middle School
- November 21: Half day for students; conferences in evening
- November 22-24: No school; Thanksgiving holiday
- December 12: CCSD 89 Winter Orchestra Concert at Glen Crest
- December 14: CCSD 89 Winter Chorus Concert at Glen Crest
- December 18: Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., Glen Crest
- December 19: CCSD 89 Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m., Glen Crest
Thank you for supporting learning for life in CCSD 89!

Sincerely,

Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent

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