



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

DEAR GD COMMUNITY,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season. This year has certainly presented us all with challenges to say the least, but as I sit here and reflect, I can't help but to realize the many gifts this year brought as well.

The past nine months amid a global pandemic have been a struggle but also a gift, as I was able to spend a substantial amount of time with my husband, two daughters and puppy, Bentley. My daughters Ashley, 29, and Angela, 25, were at home with me and I, unlike them, loved every minute of it. We hiked, biked, created new family traditions and truly enjoyed the little moments often taken for granted.

While working remotely and zooming with pajama pants and slippers on without anyone knowing was fun for a bit, not having the students in the building quickly became disheartening. The empty school building and shuffle to connect with our kids was crushing.

September brought a silver lining: the opportunity, as the new superintendent of Wynantskill, to bring our children back to school five days per week in person. Students returned and immediately reconnected with their classmates and established relationships with new teachers, flourishing socially, emotionally and academically. Our students are safe, loved and thriving because of the stability we have built together as a community in such an unparalleled year.

As the year comes to a close and we reflect on all the good within the bad, it is also important to realize how lucky we are. We are lucky to have such a supportive school community filled with those we can lean on in times of need. We are lucky to be able to enjoy one another's company, even from a distance. We are lucky to continue learning in a healthy environment. We must remind ourselves that others have not been as lucky as we have this year and keep them in our thoughts.

Our community has done a tremendous job adhering to the safety protocols and procedures to keep COVID-19 out of our homes and out of our school. I thank the staff, students and community for your diligence as we remain open for in-person learning only through your dedication.

Please be safe and continue to follow safety procedures so we can welcome our students back safely and keep our doors open from January to June.

From my family to yours, have a safe and wonderful holiday season. Cherish each moment!

Much love,

Dr. Mary Yodis
Wynantskill UFSD Superintendent

