

December 2010

Our mission is to create a learning community that prepares all students to be productive, responsible, and successful.

What Are You Thankful For?

I have attended a couple of meetings the past few weeks that have focused on the current and future status of the finances in Illinois and what this will mean for the amount of funding we can expect from the state for education. While much of the discussion is still speculation, it is a fact that Illinois does not have enough money to cover the current expenditures from this year and last. Even though the outlook for education funding is not positive, during this Thanksgiving season there are still many things I am thankful for.

- Although I state this in my December newsletter every year, I cannot express enough how thankful I am to be the superintendent of Okaw Valley. Each day I get the opportunity to work together with each of you to make our schools great, I am more and more grateful for the opportunity.
- I am thankful for the Okaw Valley parents and community. The support, dedication, and involvement of our parents and community are second to none. It is this work that allows us to still provide the best opportunities and education to our students even in poor economic times.
- I am thankful for the Okaw Valley students. I have heard countless times from places our students go for extracurricular trips and activities how respectful our students are. I also notice this as I walk through the halls of each of our buildings. The willingness of our students to help out at school and in our communities as well as their talent, ability, and behavior serve as a constant reminder of why they are the best.
- I am thankful to work with teachers and staff that truly care about our students. In today's society more demands and often harsh, unfair criticism are being placed on educators and education in general. I am proud of the time and energy our teachers and staff devote to help our students learn and succeed.
- I am thankful for our school board members. It is the hard work, dedication, and time spent by these individuals that helps pave the way for the success of our schools and our students.

Important Upcoming Dates:

December 17th-End of 2nd Quarter-2:00 Dismissal

December 20th-Holiday Break Begins

Through the school improvement process, we hope to promote a positive atmosphere and increased communication and welcome your input and suggestions on ways to accomplish this. Please use the opinions and ideas link on our website at www.okawvalley.org to share any ideas or concerns.

*“Children may be 20 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.”
-David B. Tyack*

Happy Holidays!!