

October 9, 2023

## Parkview Blog – Israel

Most weeks my blogs center on educational topics and events that are happening in the school district. This week, I am departing from that practice and writing on something that has impacted the lives of so many people this weekend– the attack on Israel by Hamas. There has been conflict in the Middle East for as long as I can remember, but this weekend the mass attack on innocent people, some just attending a music concert seemed to catch the world unaware. My wife and I had planned a trip to Israel and Jordan in 2024, now we are rethinking this idea and wondering if it will be safe.

As I watch the news and listen to the radio, I think of how incredibly fortunate I am today and each day. I have a home that I can go back to at the end of the day without the fear that maybe it has been destroyed. I was able to go to a job that I enjoy and even when I may be confronted with issues and problems that might not have immediate solutions, I know that any difficulties we will have to overcome pale in significance to what others in the world have to deal with at this moment. I am grateful that I live in a land where people can have widely different views on a topic and yet know that we have the freedom to express these beliefs without fear of governmental retribution. I am also grateful that we have public schools that allow us to study and debate difficult topics without government censorship and fear of retribution.

As I got up this morning, I said a word of thanks because even though the weather was crisp, the stars were shining brightly and I was excited to start this week of Homecoming celebrations. My drive to work was uneventful and even though the morning temperatures were cool, I knew that I could simply put on the heater and that I would make it to work just fine. I wasn't worried about whether or not bombs would be dropped and destroy the road I was traveling on. As I drove, I thought about how much I had to be grateful for in life and how much I sometimes take for granted. I have a deep sense of gratitude for the men and women who are now serving and have served in our armed forces so that we can enjoy our vast freedoms.

Each day is filled with so many unknowns, so many things that we never expected. So many things that we wanted to do and say, but never quite got around to doing or saying. I don't know what will happen in Israel in the upcoming days, weeks and months and I don't have the answer for what should be done next. However, I do have an abiding hope in mankind and a sense of optimism when I see so many acts of kindness and goodwill come out of events that are so tragic.

My hope is that everyone will take a brief moment and count their individual blessings today. Say kind words to those you meet and extend a helping hand whenever possible. I want to end by saying “Thank You” to each and every one of you that reach out each day to make someone else's life a little better. The world is a better place because of your efforts.