

November 21, 2024

## Parkview Blog – Thanksgiving

When I was growing up, my family did not really celebrate Thanksgiving. Everyone in my family was a hunter, so the Saturday before Thanksgiving was the beginning of deer hunting season. It was a tradition for everyone to leave to our hunting cabin near the Gordon Flowage, just south of Superior, on the Friday and stay up at the cabin for the full week of male bonding. Since Thanksgiving was on that Thursday, we were usually on a drive through one of the hogsbacks and didn't really stop to eat until it got dark. After I got married, my hunting days decreased and we started to spend Thanksgiving in the more traditional manner with a roasted turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and dessert. This is also the time, we start making lefse for the holiday season.

However, throughout my life, this is the time of year when I look back over the past year and give thanks for its many blessings. As I look back over the past year, I am grateful for many things. First and foremost is to be part of such a wonderful and supportive school district and community. I truly enjoy being a part of the Parkview School District. Each day I get the opportunity to work with a fine staff that wants the best for all of our students. I am also grateful that as a school district, we have the ability and opportunity to be around great students at all grade levels. I truly enjoy seeing them in the classroom, to sing my "good morning" song, get a high-five and observe great classroom instruction. What I see happening in the classrooms gives me a tremendous sense of hope and encouragement for the future.

I am so thankful for being able to work with a tremendous School Board that has been supportive of me and my ideas over the past two years and for a staff that does whatever is necessary to provide the best education possible for our students. The administrators, teachers, educational assistants, administrative assistants, custodians, cooks and bus drivers take the time each day to help students in a variety of ways – one of the best is by showing students that they are special and that we believe in them and their potential. I also get to be around a great student body where our students of all ages are friendly, courteous and respectful. We have some very talented students, who show great talents academically, athletically and through the fine arts – I enjoy going into art class and seeing how creative our students are in expressing themselves. I do not have much artistic ability, but I enjoy and appreciate it in others.

Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to help the District prepare for the future. As the month of December approaches, the Board of Education will be focusing on the hiring of a new superintendent and also planning for the future. At our Monday night Board of Education meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of going to referendum in April. It will be a busy month, but one that will bear lasting results for the school district. We are certainly blessed to have so many people working to help others in so many ways. The kindness and generosity of others is always something we can be thankful for each day.

I hope each and every one of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and find some time to reflect on your past year and dream about the future possibilities of this year and all the years to come.