



Monday Morning Thoughts

December 2 - 13, 2024

“Sometimes the best things in life are not things at all.....but the people who make you feel loved and cared for.”

Greetings ~~

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are ready for the craziness that the Christmas Season brings. Thanksgiving was late this year so we are all trying to “cram in” a lot these next three weeks. Don’t forget that routines and consistency are needed most in times of stress. Be sure to take time to take care of the “whole you”. You can’t take care of others if you haven’t taken care of yourself.

There is a lot to celebrate - a season of giving thanks, a time to reflect on those who have helped us grow, learn and become better images of ourselves, those who have dedicated so much to making this world a lot better to live in, and those that continue to serve with a grateful heart. Congratulations to the Highlander Football Team ~~ FIRST TIME EVER 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP! That happens with talent, commitment, dedication, determination and a whole lot support.

We are concluding the book Personal and Authentic by Thomas Murray. Perhaps the best summary that I can offer from this book is: grounded in relationships and built upon a culture learning, and that is what lasts a lifetime.

Chapter 6 was all about technology and the impact that it can have in the classroom. It was also a stark reminder that technology cannot and should not replace the teacher. I think this is probably the most powerful quote in the chapter:

“If we are not careful the same technology that keeps us close to those who are miles away, can also keep us miles away from those who are close.”

As you all know, there is a significant effort to ban cell phones in schools, limit screen time, and provide more opportunities for kids to play and socialize. I LOVE THIS!

Chapter 7 is the bow that wraps up our Personal and Authentic learning.

Let's start with "The best thing about being a teacher is that it matters. The hardest thing about being a teacher is that it matters every day." That is a powerful statement.

"Being an educator is incredibly hard work, it takes an unbelievable amount of courage and strength to do the work well.....Don't expect perfection from yourself or from others. It'll only lead to disappointment. Know that things will happen that cause you to struggle. It's not IF, but WHEN. Those times will take perseverance and resilience to carry you through." (pg. 155, 156)

Tom writes how "Moments of uncertainty create opportunities for your leadership legacy. Failing forward with perseverance disciplines our own expectations, pushes us to keep trying, and ultimately empowers us to lead from within. It is your display of humility in the best of times and your fail-forward mindset and perseverance during the difficult times that will make those around you want to follow." I think I have mentioned previously that those "toughest kiddos and situations" are the ones that I remember the most and provided me with significant opportunities for growth. There it is – that growth mindset.

"Failure is an opportunity for a fresh start, only with more profound knowledge and understanding than you had the last time." "Failing forward isn't merely a mindset, it is also about learning how to persevere through adversity."

"Remain focused on your why to ensure that you don't lose your way. Fail early, fail often, and never stop learning. Failing sooner often enables us to succeed faster. Be proud of your work and always lead with humility. Our kids desperately need personal and authentic role models. They need you!

Every child in your classroom and in our schools is someone else's whole world. Do we teach like that? Do we lead like that? Do we love them like that?

Every day is an opportunity to maximize your impact if you choose to see it that way. Your choices today will build your legacy for tomorrow. Years from now, many will reflect on that legacy. The good news is that you get to choose how you will be remembered. The choices that go into this are made and lived out every single day.

- Make their experience personal and authentic.

- Make the culture around you personal and authentic.
- Make your relationships personal and authentic.
- BE personal and authentic.

.....and your fingerprints will be on the lives of so many for generations to come.

The work is hard, but our kids are worth it! Be bold. Be fearless, Be proud. Be you. Your story is not yet finished. [Rita Pierson Every Kid Deserves a Champion](#)

PLANNING AHEAD

- Monday, December 2, 2024
 - Collaborative Problem Solving Level 1 Essentials Foundations Day 1 8:30 - 4:00
 - Frenchglen School Board meeting
- Tuesday, December 3
 - Collaborative Problem Solving Level 1 Essentials Foundations Day 2 8:30 - 4:00
 - Harney County EF December Zoom meeting 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 4
 - EOREN Monthly Recruitment Team Zoom 7:00 a.m.
 - COSA Special Education Law Conference - Eugene
 - OSU Outdoor School Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 5
 - COSA Special Education Law Conference - Eugene
 - ODE ASD zoom training - ASDP exemptions 7:00 a.m.
 - OAESD Sped Director Job Alike zoom meeting 2:00 p.m.
 - Suntex School Board Meeting
- Friday, December 6
 - COSA Special Education Law Conference - Eugene
 - Trauma Informed Safety Planning for School Staff zoom meeting 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, December 9
 - LSP Meeting #3 HESD 10:00 a.m.
 - PE and Health with Kaitlyn and Tori at Double O and Suntex
 - ESD ODE Office Hours EII Zoom 1:00 p.m.
 - Lyn Seres Monthly Zoom 4:00 p.m.
 - Diamond School Board meeting
- Tuesday, December 10
 - Drewsey Staff meeting 7:00 a.m. - Shannon attending
 - HESD meeting with Bobbi at Wayfinder 11:00 a.m.
 - Fields teacher observations
 - Fields School board meeting
 - Pine Creek School board meeting
- Wednesday, December 11
 - PE and Health with Kaitlyn and Tori at Fields
 - HESD Board meeting 1:30 p.m.
 - Drewsey School Board meeting

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- Thursday, December 12
 - PE and Health with Kaitlyn and Tori at Drewsey and Pine Creek
 - PE and Health with Kaitlyn and Tori at Diamond
 - RTAP Monthly zoom meeting 10:00 a.m.
 - OAESD School Improvement Job Alike zoom 2:00 p.m.
 - Christmas Program at Double O 5:00 p.m.
 - Friday, December 13
 - Oregon Educational Collaborative Meeting 7:00 a.m.
 - OEREN PD Team monthly zoom meeting 8:00 a.m.
 - HESD Staff meeting 8:00 a.m.
 - Trauma informed Safety Planning zoom meeting 10:00 a.m.
 - Integrated Guidance Consortium Advisory meeting with lunch 12:00 p.m.

What kind of a difference will you make today?