



Monday Morning Thoughts

March 2 - 15, 2026

“How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time.”

Greetings ~~

My granddaughter sent me the photo above with a message ~ “I didn’t expect this! I cannot eat all of this, it’s too big!” And, boy did that make me think - when you have “silver dollar pancake” tasks, ideas, expectations and end up with “ginormous pancake” tasks, ideas, expectations, what do you do? My response to my granddaughter was, “take it one bite at a time” and stop when you are full. I think this could be a metaphor for life - “take it one step at a time and ‘pause’ when you need to rest, think, plan, rejuvenate”.

Tara Martin’s book Be Real, chapter 13 fit right in. “You don’t have to know the end to begin. That’s the amazing part about it. You are the game designer.....that is Learning through Life! What we learn through life keeps us waking up and trying again the next day. Life is an adventure. We know not the end. Sometimes we power up. Sometimes we’re knocked down. Sometimes we’re knocked out. No matter the quest, an innovator’s inner explorer can’t stop; it won’t settle. The twists and turns keep us guessing and striving for the next step.” (page 150)

It’s helpful to remember that our decisions are rarely purely objective—they’re shaped by the stories our brain tells us based on past experiences, deeply held values, and the contexts in which we’ve lived and worked. Biases, and we all have them, are simply the mind’s way of simplifying complexity, using shortcuts that can be useful but sometimes limit perspective. By approaching our thinking with curiosity, humility, and a willingness to be vulnerable enough to question our assumptions, we create space for more thoughtful choices and stronger connections with one another.

Starting with positive intent (wondering with curiosity why this person is thinking/saying/doing and how my assumptions shade my view). Brené Brown reminds us, “People are hard to hate close up. Move in.” When we choose curiosity over judgment, we create space for understanding and connection — especially in challenging moments.

Shawn Achor, The Happiness Advantage, reminds us that mindset shapes outcomes: “Happiness is not the belief that we don’t need to change; it’s the realization that we can.” By intentionally practicing optimism and gratitude, we strengthen resilience and collaboration across our school community.

Remember that together we can lead with empathy, remain open to growth, and reflect on how our bias influences our work. When we assume positive intent and commit to continuous learning, we create a school/work environment where every student and adult feels seen, valued, and supported.

PLANNING AHEAD

- Monday, March 2, 2026 - Read Across America Week
 - Crystal and Shannon visiting schools - Dr. Seuss Day
 - ESD/REN Community of Practice zoom meeting 9:00 a.m.
 - ESD/ODE SSA Technical Assistance zoom 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 3
 - Cheyenne and Shannon at Special Education training - all day
 - EOU/HESD County Reading Event planning meeting 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 4
 - Dr. Seuss Day
 - HESD Monthly grant meeting 10:00 a.m.
 - Instructional Assistant book study - 3:15 p.m.
- Thursday, March 5
 - Dr. Seuss Day
 - Shannon traveling to LaGrande
 - Shannon attending High Quality PD Committee Team meeting #1 5:30 p.m.
 - Suntex School Board meeting
- Friday, March 6
 - Shannon at EOU
 - Rural Superintendent zoom meeting 7:00 a.m.
 - COSA Friday Forum zoom meeting 8:00 a.m.



- Sunday, March 8 - SPRING AHEAD
- Monday, March 9
 - PE Day with Kaitlin at Suntex with Double O
 - ODE/ESD SSA technical support zoom meeting 1:00 p.m.
 - Diamond School Board meeting
- Tuesday, March 10
 - ESD Regional ODE zoom meeting 8:00 a.m.
 - Shannon - teacher observations Fields/Frenchglen
 - PE Day with Kaitlin at Fields
 - Frenchglen School Board meeting
 - Burns School Board meeting - Shannon attending
 - Pine Creek School Board meeting
- Wednesday, March 11
 - Shannon - teacher observations Redmond
 - PE Day with Kaitlin at Diamond

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- Drewsey School Board meeting
 - Thursday, March 12
 - EOREN Spring Board Meeting - all day
 - PE Day with Kaitlin at Drewsey with Pine Creek
 - Friday, March 13
 - COSA Friday Forum 8:00 a.m.
 - EOREN Spring Board Meeting - all day

~~ YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE ~~