

Message from the Superintendent - February 2018

One of my favorite “holidays” of the year is Groundhog’s Day. This mythical mystery that plays out each year is borne of pure fantasy and comically predicts that if the ground hog, Pennsylvania’s own Punxsutawney Phil, sees its shadow we will have six more weeks of winter. If he fails to see his shadow, it seems we will have an early spring. With predictions like this, how can one possibly be wrong?

We are in that zone of the school year when teachers and students are engaged with challenging concepts and are attempting to make great strides. In this zone of learning, students need challenging work that helps them learn and achieve new information.

In some ways the school year seems to some like the movie Groundhog Day. Routines seem to repeat themselves. In these routines a person has choices. At the beginning of the movie Ground Hog Day, Bill Murray’s character, Phil Connor finds that each day is repeating itself and he takes destructive tactics to change this routine. By the end of the movies, though, he uses the experience to demonstrate a more respectable and appealing character who transforms from a self-absorbed person into a stalwart example of citizenship and helping others.

For me, sometimes, certain challenges seem routine with predictable and undesirable outcomes. I like to try to find the positive and build on it if possible. When it comes to the change of seasons, each day of the last days of winter bring the hope of longer days and warmer weather. When faced with a challenge we have a choice. Do we see a pattern in a routine and look at the boring, seemingly repetitive nature of it and succumb to a self-pitying response, or do we see where something positive can be found and use it to build a brighter and more helpful future?

I am excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. I have the opportunity to work with very dedicated educators who are using each daily routine to help our young people become better citizens who have a bright future. The lesson for me of Groundhog’s Day is one of attitude. We all have a choice whether we see the glass as half full or half empty. I choose to take the half-full cup and through education and the excitement of learning fill it to the brim.

Educationally yours,

Jerry Wilson, PhD