

## **Superintendent's Message – May 2018**

I enjoy running, especially when the weather turns warm as it has recently. Growing up, I always thought of myself more as a sprinter, but I quickly learned that many others had quicker feet. For me a good run is a 5K. I say this as I am not a marathon runner nor an extreme athlete of any kind. One of my daughters has competed in the Boston marathon though and I am deeply impressed by the dedication and training of athletes who compete in distance races.

With the start of May, especially following our prolonged cold winter and spring, our students are looking forward to summer and our seniors are envisioning their next steps beyond school. From a school perspective, May is one of the busiest times of our school year. If this were a marathon or a distance run, the end is in sight, and for many who have worked hard throughout the year, a final push at the end will make it a great effort!

With the end of the school year in sight, it is time take stock of where we have been and where we are going. I have been reading a book entitled *Open: How We will work, Live and Learn In the Future*. The author, David Price, makes the point that with the digital tools at our disposal we are entering a time in which each of us are able to use our education as a lever for personal growth and understanding. We are truly in an age when a person can access nearly unlimited information about nearly any topic. With all the information at each of our finger tips, personal knowledge is bound by our own determination, skills and interests.

For our students living in a world where routine tasks become readily automated, the use of knowledge for creative entrepreneurial pursuits is key. In order to adeptly use knowledge, we need to learn the core basics and combine that with determination and perseverance to discover what we need to understand to be successful. Like the long distance runner, it is the skills we practice and the training endured that puts a person in a place to be successful.

As the last days of school sprint by this year, I hope our students and families enjoy the celebrations that unfold as the month progresses. I also encourage us to use these times to reflect on what has been learned this year that can be a kick start to something you want to learn more about and that you found engaging. With our access to information, much can be pursued independently that can lead to new understanding and pathways. Our students need to learn that their success is highly dependent on their own initiative and on pursuing what they are most passionate about learning.

Best wishes for a great finish to the school year. Enjoy all the moments, as they create memories. Take a deep breath, reach down deep and end strong and look forward to what comes next – it is your future and what you make of it.

Educationally yours,

Jerry Wilson