

From: Superintendent
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2012 10:50 AM
Cc: EPS.MailList
Subject: Thanksgiving greetings

Dear colleague,

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. ~W.T. Purkiser

How succinctly this aphorism captures the ideal essence of the holiday we will enjoy this week!

During this season, we take time to express gratitude for our blessings, but this author gently persuades us to look beyond ourselves and to put our blessings into actions. Another writer, explorer and adventurer, W.J. Cameron, expressed that sentiment another way, "Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action."

During this wonderful fall season of celebration I am so very thankful for an incredibly talented, dedicated and professional staff and the large and small actions you take each day to help students – and each other – succeed. I am thankful for the magnificent schools and many other resources our community's active support provides that make our work possible, and indeed, delightful day in and day out. I am thankful for the parents who do their very best each day to send us their beautiful children, and entrust us with their safety, and in so many ways, their very futures.

I am also thankful for the committed leadership you demonstrate, the collaborative spirit you exhibit, and the caring actions you take to support our work each day – how you broaden the possibilities for students today and tomorrow. I am thankful that the collective efforts you and our colleagues make each day in Everett Public Schools exemplify the very, very best of our democracy's cornerstone – public education.

I wish the very best for you, your loved ones and our school families. Have a warm, safe, active and, yes, *actively* thankful Thanksgiving holiday.

Warmest regards,

Gary