

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK . . .

Dear Hoffman Family,

Last Friday evening, we enjoyed one of the most wonderful events of the school year – the International Fair. Hoffman School was a true melting pot of cultures as classrooms were transformed into various countries, guests dined on delicious international foods, and a plethora of performers entertained a large audience in the gym. The sense of community and positive involvement permeated the entire building as students and their families gathered a deeper appreciation for the diversity that exists in our school, village, and country. The following cultures were represented: Hispanic, Polish, Korean, Greek, Italian, Irish, Chinese, Scandinavian, and Russian. Last Friday evening afforded students and their families a great opportunity to witness the many components of our multi-cultural school/society. Learning as much as we can and developing an appreciation for our diversity opens the door to a successful life as a productive citizen.

Please extend a huge thanks and a hearty round of applause to Mrs. Letty Hawkes and Mrs. Cherie DiCesare and Mrs. Marcy Sotirchos for their outstanding and dedicated leadership of this event. Special thanks to Mrs. Letty Hawkes, our Henking/Hoffman PTA president, for her enthusiasm, coordination, and commitment to helping us better understand the diversity present in our school. We are deeply grateful to the many parents and community members who volunteered their time, energy, and expertise in the classrooms, café, and gym – you were amazing. Lastly, a sincere word of appreciation to our Local School Council (LSC) who had the foresight a few years ago to stage this wonderful event to honor the diversity present in our school.

Thank you for making us part of your team to educate our children. We are proud to join you as partners in our daily work to help all students succeed.

Sincerely,
Mark Walther, Principal

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Good Relationships Make a Good Life

If we interviewed 100 people who are unusually happy, I think the most prominent common denominator would be unusually good relationships. Despite the widespread promotion of materialism and vanity in our popular culture, wealth and beauty are not enough to produce happiness. In fact, they're not even necessary. What's more, bad relationships – at work, at home, or among friends – are a surefire source of anguish and heartache.

For most of us, the connections that most strongly influence our level of happiness are family bonds. And the most powerful of all are at the inner core of family, especially parent-child relationships.

No matter what your age, your kinship with your parents will always have unique capacity to generate comfort or pain. Many children have ambivalent feelings about their folks. Yet most crave their approval, respect, and love. Parents have a similar need.

If you're a parent, resolve to make more consistent and conscientious efforts to make your children feel appreciated. If you want to make their lives and yours happier, be careful to not demean or diminish their achievements and to avoid expressions of disappointment. Tell your child you're proud to have him or her as a son or daughter.

And if you still can, give your parents pleasure by showing them you love them, not only for what they did for you as a child, but for who they are now. Talk to them frequently, and talk of meaningful things. Ask their advice and don't roll your eyes in disdain if you disagree with it. One of the best ways to express your love is through respect.