

November 1, 2007

To: Smitty

From: Monty Aldrich

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT OFFICE...

Congratulations to the Louisville Chamber of Commerce on another successful Fall Festival. It's great that there are several people continuing to make sure that there are activities of interest built around the parade to keep people coming back every year. It is also important that our school staff generate student activities to keep the youth involved in the tradition. Thanks!

On Sunday, November 11, there will be a dedication to the new veterans' memorial on the south side of the square. I have read and have heard that there will be several activities for the dedication including a fly over with military planes. Please plan to attend and show your support for those who served and for those serving now.

I want to raise awareness regarding the continued games that legislators have been playing that will affect our school funding. You've probably heard that Illinois cannot settle on a budget. That really hurts Clay County in many ways. Everyone assumes that it is just a game and that a budget will eventually pass. Beginning November 1, we will revert to some previous year's dollar figures regarding the monthly state aid that our district normally receives. To make it simple, we stand to lose \$190,445 in state aid if the BIMP bill is not passed. That would result in a reduction in monthly state aid of \$21,161. If the bill is passed, we stand to receive a monthly increase in state aid of \$17,579. Therefore, we are talking about a change of \$38,740 per month for North Clay. That is a great amount of operating money. This bill also affects whether schools and other municipalities would get future construction money. How can you help? Talk to your local legislators about how important it is to our county. Democrat or republican, it matters not. We need a progressive budget within Illinois to help our kids.

I'd like the chance to say a little about discipline and its meaning within our schools.

First of all, there is no better discipline for a child than that which comes from your home. Our purpose with disciplining a child here is to correct the behavior so that it is not a disruption to all others who deserve an education. Our purpose is to find consequences for your child that will motivate a correction in behavior. Obviously, it would be easier for our administration and staff to "not do anything" and let things go. That is not fair to other kids who are distracted by the behavior. It is not an easy job to report to parents with negative information, especially when it is frequent. But, we need the help of the parent or guardian in the discipline process. Please realize that our goal is to correct behavior so that all can learn. "Leadership doesn't mean that we are always right and it doesn't mean that we know everything". It doesn't mean that we have "something against your child". We have high expectations for every kid to be able to turn things around and feel better about school.

I offer all parents/guardians an opportunity to schedule a meeting to gather with all involved to help resolve conflict before it grows too large. Don't give up, and don't say that it will not matter. Don't say that it won't change anything. Don't base it upon past experiences within your school career. Coming to school and facing everyone involved shouldn't be "us against you". It should be an agreement to resolve the problem so that your child can get back into the swing of the whole school experience. I challenge you to give this a chance. If it doesn't work, then we have failed but don't fail us by not trying.

I am proud of what our staff has accomplished in the two plus years that I have served here. I see a great change in attitude and success. I really think we have raised the bar with expectations of how we are supposed to serve kids. I also think we have set the standard for how everyone should be treated as human beings. If our customer service is not good, we always want to hear about it so that we can correct the problem. I think that we have gotten rid of several relationships where people felt inferior because of the way that they were treated. I think we have added staff that genuinely cares for kids and their families. I believe that "It takes a village" to make a successful business. Due to our staff makeup, we are becoming a village for kids.