

August 19, 2010

To: Smitty

From: Monty Aldrich

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT OFFICE...

Wow, it's another school year already and things are rolling! Also rolling are school buses so keep in mind that kids jumping on and off don't always have their minds on watching traffic. We also have many obstacles around the school buildings now due to the construction going on. Be careful where you drop your kids off as there are some hazardous areas.

Speaking of construction, there's a lot going on around here. The crew is currently tearing off the old roof on the high school and plans are to construct a new metal roof with a pitch to it. This will give us 50 years of warranty instead of dealing with a flat roof system that gives us headaches. They are also improving our ventilation and plumbing, and it will probably take until around November to complete.

Another project we are finishing is tuckpointing and replacement of brick on the jr. high addition. There were many issues with water in the masonry and mortar and brick pieces were falling off. Hopefully this will be fixed and sealed for years to come.

We also are completing re-sealing and painting of the mansard board on the grade school. If you remember, the facing was faded and not weather tight. There was moisture getting into the gym as well. That was sealed and the paint sprayed on now matches the high school color on the EIFS. Some say it's pretty and some say it's ugly. I just got new glasses and those are ugly but I can see better!

We have also done several more small projects for energy efficiency or improvement of the grounds. I feel it is vital to maintain and keep up with the ongoing issues of our buildings. We are not in a situation to allow deterioration beyond use and have to build new.

I want to take a moment to recognize two teachers that retired at the end of the past school year. Jeannie Duke was a kindergarten teacher for several years in this district, and Karen Ritter was a Family & Consumer Science teacher for several years. We have appreciated their commitment to education. I also want to take a moment for "the older folks like me" to recognize Winnie Cantrell who was a music teacher in our district for numerous years. Mrs. Cantrell passed away recently.

Want to help the school make some money and have it not cost you anything? We have a new program here at North Clay that is very easy to do and won't cost you anything more than those things you would normally purchase. Many of us use online shopping for our purchases. You can now go to our school website at www.northclayschools.com, click on the fundraising link to 1StepFundraiser.com, and shop at over 250 online stores carrying the things you ordinarily purchase.

When you purchase things on this link, North Clay will get a percentage of the purchase money back. Whether you are buying school supplies, downloading songs, purchasing a gift, booking a hotel or flight, or shopping for Christmas, you can be helping to better the education of our

students. The prices aren't higher due to this. It's just an agreement we have made with these merchants. PLEASE be sure to tell your friends and family about this. Every little bit helps!

I really feel good about this school year here. I think we "have it going on" here due to the staff's increased commitment to individual education of our students. We are never perfect, and are always ready to hear what we could improve upon. We are constantly looking at the quality of the safety of students. You may not hear much about this due to security reasons, but we are organized with a plan of action. Education of students is more difficult now than it's ever been. There are more demands, harder tasks for students, and many social roadblocks. If we can help, please let us know.