



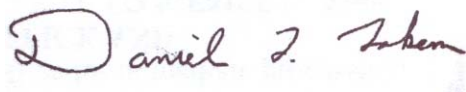
## If there is hope in the future...

### *There is Power in the Present*

- ❖ As a part of our district's efforts to keep our parents, community and staff informed about Byron Center Public Schools, I am sending my "Power in the Present" staff communication to all of our stakeholders. This communication is sent every two weeks or as time allows.
- ❖ At our May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Board Meeting, we welcomed new Board member, Bruce Dennett. Bruce will assume his position immediately due to the vacancy. Also at the meeting, the Board received updates on the projected school funding. Initial projections show a potential \$38 less per student in 2009-10. We will need to wait until September or October to hope for more clarity. We had two presentations at our meeting. First we highlighted our successes in student achievement reviewing our district's MEAP scores, and Ed YES report card with A's for each building. We also had our initial discussion with regard to forming an Alternative Education option, probably an on-line option, for those students who are lagging in expectations. Ideally, this program would be housed in the high school within the normal school day. More information to follow.
- ❖ The next Board Meeting will be Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Central Administration building. We will continue with staffing reductions, specifically the support staff.
- ❖ Please join us on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> as Byron Center Public Schools' hosts a "**Fond Farewell**" for the following staff members who are retiring: Carol Hoogterp, Norma Jongsma, Sandy Nyenhuis, Bob Schippers, and Ruth Walburg. The Fond Farewell will be in the Nickels Intermediate café area Wednesday, June 3, from 4-5:30p.m.. We invite all staff, parents, community members and former students to attend and thank these remarkable people for touching our lives over the past many years.
- ❖ Memorial Day was celebrated at West Middle School on Friday, May 22, when the National Junior Honor Society hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Memorial Day event. Several military personnel and vets attended. The entire student body and guests gathered outside as taps were played at the flagpole, they then entered the great hall which was transformed into a memorial, and regrouped in the gym for a special Memorial Day tribute. Across the district, our Countryside Elementary Principal, Carla Kauffman, attended a Memorial Day Service in Indianapolis. She attended in memory of her nephew, a Green Beret, who was killed in Afghanistan last June. Carla said Memorial Day never met so much to her. For those who knew someone whose life was lost in war, I hope this Memorial Day helped to honor your loved one. We all look forward to a future with world peace.
- ❖ To all those who participated in, or supported, the "Relay for Life" event on May 9<sup>th</sup> – Great Job! Byron Center Public Schools, together, raised \$4,929 for the cause. The entire Relay event raised \$42,000 beating their goal of \$40,000. Our district organizers, Joy and Kathy, say it best, "Thanks for supporting Relay as we celebrate cancer survivors, remember those who have died from cancer and FIGHT BACK against this terrible disease!"
- ❖ Countryside Elementary collected food donations this spring as a community service project called "Kids Food Basket of Grand Rapids." The students collected 418 pounds of food equating to \$907 in contributions. This amounts to feeding 14 children at the KFB for one whole year. ON May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Countryside students released 14 butterflies which represented the 14 kids that were helped. Wow! Projects like this are certain to affect many students for life.
- ❖ Along those same lines, in May the Marshall Elementary Student Council members, along with parent chaperones and their advisor, Luke Vandenberg, went to help out at the Kids Food Basket. They spent an hour working alongside other volunteers helping to prepare "Summer Sack Suppers" for needy children in the Grand Rapids Public Schools. What a great way for our students to take part in community service.

- ❖ The Boy Scouts at Nickels Intermediate are planning a flag-lowering ceremony after school on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to bring the 08-09 school year to a close. Nickels will have 15 scouts from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade participating. Daniel Barber will be performing “Taps” on his trumpet and the flag is slowly lowered, folded, and retired for the year. The entire student body will be released from class a few minutes early in order to participate in the event.
- ❖ According to Brown Elementary teacher, Joy Antvelink, “Teaching is about the little everyday moments: A child beaming with pride when they have finally reached a goal in Mad Minute. The lighting up of eyes when a new concept is finally understood. Two children apologizing for hurt feelings and walking away with renewed and stronger friendship. The continual lessons about love and acceptance. The change that I can influence a child’s future in a positive. That is why teaching is my passion.”
- ❖ I had the privilege of joining Marshall Elementary Principal, Mr. Macina, as we emceed the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Who Let the Stars Out?” event at the Van Singel on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>. It was an afternoon filled with celebrating the many talents of our younger students from 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. From cup stacking, to singing and dancing, to instrumental solos, to listening to original compositions by our students, it was an amazing afternoon. A big thank you to all of our parents, families, and friends who came out to support these young artists.
- ❖ Finally, Byron Center High School will graduate 207 students in this Class of 2009. One hundred seventy seven of those will go on to a post secondary institution, training program, or military. One hundred fifty nine have identified and are accepted into a 2 or 4-year college or university program. Six students will enter the military. One hundred eighty of our graduates will be receiving the “Michigan Promise” scholarship of \$4,000 from the State of Michigan equaling more than \$750,000. Outside the Michigan Promise, our students as a whole have been awarded \$1.2 million in scholarships. That gives the class a combined scholarship total of nearly \$2 million. Congratulations to our Class of 2009. We are proud of each of these students and wish them the very best in their futures.
- ❖ Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> is our last day of school. It has been a great honor to serve the students and families of this great district. Have a safe and peaceful summer.

If there is hope in the future,  
There is power in the present,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Daniel L. Takens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Daniel L. Takens  
Superintendent