

Principal's Report  
December 13, 2021

Winter activities are off and running. It is great that our participation is at a level that allows for sub-varsity competition. We have had to make the decision not to attend some activities this weekend due to the road conditions and will have to continue to monitor these situations as we head into the winter months. Although we want our students to participate in activities, we must always put their safety first.

The music department held their K-6th grade Christmas concert on December 9. It is always great for our community to come watch our students perform. In addition, Miss Osterhaus held her first Winter Fest Art Show that displayed our grade school students' art work. This is a great addition to our evening. On December 20, we will have our Christmas Concert for grades 7th-12th. Please plan to attend and get into the Christmas spirit.

I want to thank the Board for the opportunity to attend the State Principals Conference last week. This allowed me to network with other principals and to share ideas about making our schools more effective and inviting for all students and staff. These conferences are very important to get updates on school laws and to also realize that all schools are dealing with the same issues we are here at APS. Most of the breakout sessions I attended dealt with students and trauma. I will be sharing this information with the teaching staff at our next faculty meeting. I would really like to find a person to come address classroom trauma with our staff during our January inservice. I want you to also be aware that students are not the only ones feeling anxiety and stress during this school year. Our staff is also experiencing these symptoms and I am working on ways to reduce this to help them produce a more stress-free and positive learning environment.

As you know, there is a big shortage of workers and the school is no different as we, as do all other schools, have an issue finding substitutes. I want to thank Mrs. Hilker for being creative in covering our teachers and the teaching staff for also helping to cover during their plan periods or absorbing someone else's class. I am thankful for our staff's willingness to help out wherever it is needed. It truly does take everyone's commitment to make this school operate.

I want to thank Mrs. Crosley's Marketing Class for their work with the Merry and Bright program. They worked with businesses to help "market" their business. A very good real life learning experience.

Finally, I would like to share with you how thankful I am for our paraprofessionals we have at APS. We are still short and would love to have two or three more quality paras, but they are hard to find. Each week these ladies do a great job of coordinating their schedules to ensure that all their duties are covered. From crossing guard, recess, classroom assistance and helping to cover classes for short periods of time these ladies have gotten it done. I truly value their flexibility and commitment to this school and our students.