

Ahoy! A Wonderful Year (or Three) at HMS

Well, the HMS HMS is coming in to port for the year. At the 8th Grade Recognition Dance the other night, the parents brilliantly transformed our cafeteria to look like a ship on the ocean, and they asked me to be the “Captain.” I was honored, and I have been privileged to be able to steer this school these past four years. For this year’s 8th Grade Class of 2010, I have been able to see children come in as sixth graders and form into some true, mature young adults. It has been an absolutely wonderful journey for them, and us with them as well, and I know they will succeed in everything they put their minds to. They are a magnificent group of individuals who have so many talents to offer our world. When we speak of them as “our future,” I know we don’t have much to worry about. They are the ones, who will make their dreams come true, because they have the heart and effort to make the impossible happen. They are that special a group. I wish them luck, but I realize they don’t need luck for they will make it happen.

As the HMS disembarks, we get the chance to think about the growth that has happened this past year. Our sixth graders have successfully finished their first year in middle school. They have grown older, wiser, and more secure in knowing they are true “middle-schoolers.” Our seventh graders are on their way to being eighth graders, the “top dogs” of the school, with the knowledge of their having to take over the mantle of being the role-models for the school. And, again, our eighth graders are continuing on their voyage to adulthood with their next port being in high school. They are an extraordinary group of young men and women and I thank them for three magnificent years.

With our faculty, we will be saying good-bye to one amazing educator. Mr. Kevin Black is retiring. Kevin has been teaching, working, and coaching thousands of Hanson (and Whitman) children in the District for over 35 years. The number of lives he has been able touch is truly awe-inspiring. He will be beyond a doubt missed, but we hope all the best for him in his well-deserved retirement.

The last four years I have ended each morning announcement with, “Do the best you can in everything you do today.” I believe this statement, and all of the teachers and students here at HMS have been proving its worth. They have tried their best and have benefited from the positive things which have come from it in many, many forms. I hope for the best for all of you this summer and beyond. Have a great summer; and see you again on September 1st.