

ORCA K-8 SCHOOL



Principal Tonie

June 23, 2017



WE ALL BELONG!

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Hello Orca Community,

This is my last letter to you, as we are now at the end of the school year. For those of you that have been reading my newsletters since I have been Principal here at Orca, you know that at times my writings are not only reflective, but also comparative.

There is something to say about the journeys that we all have to go through in life, sometimes, the simplest trip can turn into an unexpected undertaking.

In October, 2015, I shared some personal news with the Community, towards the end of that summer, I was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. What you may not know, is that I was still having my last round of chemo when I returned to school in September, 2016. I felt great before my diagnosis, and I feel even better now. It was in the in-between where I felt the press. The adage, what does not kill you will make you stronger, has great truth. It is called Post Traumatic Growth: Positive psychological change experienced, as a result of adversity and other challenges in order to rise to a higher level of functioning. The cancer treatment was grueling; there was never a comfort zone. I got through it, because I had faith in the process and doctors, support from friends and family and through it all, I emerged stronger – mentally and emotionally.

I still need support; there is work that has to be done, gaps to be closed and students to educate. We continue to strive for social and academic balance, not only as a Community, but also as a country, but I will steer my focus to what is happening here under our own roof. Some of our students, especially our students of color, continue to face adversity and challenges in their academic growth. It goes far beyond what is happening at home, it travels beyond what is occurring in the streets and it is looming, noticeably in our schools.

The Powers that be, are warring; Justice, Equity, Equality, Racism, Poverty, Inclusion, Homelessness, you name it, it is roaring!

I am reminded of the story of 'The North Wind and the Sun'. It is a short story with a powerful impact.

There are two mighty forces in a great dispute about which is more powerful. Now, in their own rights, they are both powerful, mighty and even intimidating; what they do respectively is necessary to support the continuum of life on earth.

The North Wind and the Sun disputed back and forth, both boasting as to which was the most powerful, finally agreeing that he who could first strip the wayfaring man of his clothing, would be declared the most formidable and the victor.

The North Wind first tried his power, blowing with all his strength, but the more intense his blasts, the closer the Traveler wrapped his cloak around himself. The Wind thought for certain, that the heavy gusts and debris that swirled around the man would certainly cause him to give up and let go of the garment and with one more, mighty blow, the man would lose his grip and all would be lost. He would reign victorious. Instead, the man used one hand to hold tight to his covering and the other hand to thwart off the oncoming onslaught, until at last, resigning all hope of victory, the Wind called upon the Sun to see what he could do.

The Sun came forward, taking in all that had just occurred and decided that he would take a different approach than that of the Wind. He did not want to use his strength and power, the intensity of heat to cause harm to the man, to prove that he was the most powerful, what positive outcome could that have for the man? He wanted the man to see that his strength could be a comfort and not just a weapon, a space to bask and not avoid, so with much care and intention, degree by small degree he began to expose his warmth. The Traveler no sooner felt his kind, earnest and welcoming rays, loosened his grip on the cloak and began to remove one garment after another and at last, fairly overcome with a sweet heat, undressed and bathed in a stream that lay in his path.

The two techniques used by the Mighty Forces had different outcomes. One had the man, in a combative position, fighting for his life while trying to hold on to what little he had, wading through everything that was being tossed and thrown his way, with little regard for his own safety. Many platforms and agendas that are touting their own strength, often leaves those who could benefit, holding on for dear life, while all around them chaos looms.

Conversely, those whose agendas are not self-centered, but world centered, people-centered are mindful of the individuals needing help, recognizing that change has to come, needs to come and with a consistent display of action, resources and attention will come. Not to destroy, but to give the individuals a sense of security, trust and comfort.

Persuasion has always been better than force. I hope to persuade the Orca community to use their strength, might, wisdom, education and experience, to name a few, to display a sweet heat, not destroying, but embracing those who can benefit from it and leading them to a stream of life.

Looking forward to our next journey,

Tonie

END OF THE YEAR SAFETY NEWS

Safety is a team game; it takes all of us to be successful. But it takes a great leader to bring it ask together. It's time to recognize Principal Tonie for her outstanding leadership, her ability to empower others to greatness and for being such a wonderful person to work with.

Another truly great human being is Ms. Cynthia. She always has the pulse of what's going on here at Orca. She always has time to help people find the right path to take in life. Thank you, Ms. Cynthia, for helping me find my path.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the entire safety supervision team here at Orca. Thank you to Tanya Dang for being so reliable and always on point. Thank you to Ms. Harris for the love and the tough love you show our students. We all need both sometimes. Thank you to Lori Hurd for your warm heart and for building relationships with our students. Thank you to Ms. Lee for your consistency and your generosity. I also want to thank Aimee Hall, Tafuta Fundisha Bey, Mr. Lemon, Stacy Stark, Jamal Hur, Tracy Appleyard, Michelle Herrmann, Brenda Carr-Nelson and anyone else who helps keep our students safe here at Orca. Brenda, you will be dearly missed.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the students and the parents for making this the best year ever here at Orca!

Now go out and have a great summer.

Much Love,

Ian Reid

The logo for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is displayed in a large, bold, green, stylized font with a black outline and a slight 3D effect. The letters are slanted and have a dynamic, energetic feel.

SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM

This spring, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Test for English Language Arts/literacy and Math was administered to students in grades 3rd-8th grade. This test is used as a tool to help measure progress of your child and to discover strengths and weaknesses that could help the school plan our instructional program in meeting your child's educational needs for next year.

On Monday, June 26, students, who took the test in grades 3rd-8th, will take home a copy of their preliminary achievement results. We hope this information is useful to you.

June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Middle School Promotion: June 23, 2017 @ 7:00pm 				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Final PTSA Meeting 7-8:30	Volunteer Luncheon 11-1:30 Staff Lounge		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				Sports Banquet End of Year BBQ	Last Garden Orca Talent Show	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Field Day		Middle School Promotion	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Last Day of School 1 Hour Early Dismissal SBAC results go home					