

Dear Parents,

This is a wonderful time of year. As we enter the holiday season in the coming weeks many of our thoughts are centered on what we are thankful for. I am not trying to make an all inclusive list, but would like to list a few things I am thankful for. I am thankful for this great country we live in. We have freedoms that are unprecedented in the history of the human race. I am thankful for the foresight the founders of our country had in establishing the United States.

I am thankful for my family. In thinking about my family I would be remiss to not mention my mother. She has given me everything in life. As I think of all she taught me my thoughts always center on the time my mom spent helping me to read. My mom spent countless hours reading to me, reading with me and taking me to the library to find good books to read. There was a time though where I didn't want to read, but instead wanted to watch the television. We had just purchased a color tv, this technology had been around for a while, but we had one of the first ones on the block. I loved watching all the new sitcoms.

My mom became concerned that my schooling was taking a backseat to shows like Gilligan's Island and Leave it to Beaver. My parents talked to me with little change in my behavior. They then went to plan B. This was to "pay" me to read. I received one penny for each thirty minute block of time that I read. I could cash in this penny for an equal amount of time in front of the tv. Within a short amount of time I was hooked on classics such as Huck Finn, the Hobbit, Louie Lamore. Before long I was spending more time with a good book in hand than I was in front of the tv.

The most important lesson I learned was not really a lesson, but rather a gift. I was given the gift of reading by my mother. She took the time to help me understand the importance of reading. The tv show once watched is time gone. The book read is the acquisition of a skill that can never be taken away.

Please take the time every day to encourage your child to read. As a school we ask that when our students leave and go home that they spend at least 20-30 minutes each night with a good book to read. This time reading will be giving your child a gift that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

Darrin Johnson
Principal