

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER 2016

We were honored again this year to have a special flag raising ceremony lead by our own Saratoga Springs Fire Department. This occurred on 9/11 in honor of Patriot's Day. With this being the 15^h Anniversary this year the ceremony brought back again those feelings of gratitude for those who protect us through their public/military service. To those of you who serve or who have served, have love ones who serve or who have served, we send a huge **THANK YOU** for your service and sacrifice!

Our awesome academics are something to celebrate. During the last week of September the grade for each school in the state was reported publicly. **We are proud to say that our school received a letter grade of "B"!** This grade is based on our overall achievement scores and student growth scores on our end of the year testing. Our letter grade of "B" represents our efforts to focus on learning by the student and by the academic standard – students have grown significantly! As we have unpacked our assessment data we have determined our school improvement goals this year will focus on literacy, both reading and writing. To assist us in obtaining these literacy goals, we have been given some incredible materials, called *Wonders*, and we are already encouraged at the progress our students are making!

Dr. T's readers had HUGE crowds this past month and we are looking forward to some spooky reading for the month of October. For grades 1-2 we will be reading: *Franny K. Stein: Lunch Walks Among Us* By Jim Benton. For grades 3-4: *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* By Bruce Coville. Finally, for grades 5-6 the very spooky *Time for Andrew: A Ghost Story* By Mary Downing Hahn. Please keep encouraging your students to read not only the Dr. T books, but also any good books they can get their hands on.

This month's character trait focus is on the attribute of RESPECT. In the spirit of that attribute - coming up will be our annual Red Ribbon & Safety Week co-sponsored by the school and the PTA on October 31 – November 4. Our goal is to engage students in respecting themselves and others by making great life choices and staying away alcohol and drugs. Lastly, our annual Halloween Parade will spook your socks off towards the end of the month – on October 31st at 9:30 AM.

Thanks again for joining us as we "Build a Community of Learners – One Student at a Time!"

Dr. Vallen Thomas - Principal