

## Principal's Message for January 2017

Welcome to 2017!!! I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. We here at the school are excited to be back to launch into the second part of our school year.

Coming up this month we have some wonderful activities going on. Our Student Council will put on another wonderful Character Trait Assembly that will focus on our Character Trait of the Month – honesty. The Council will also continue to lead our yearlong focus on Kindness, with our student lead initiative - Stand4Kind. In the different grade levels, please refer to your students' teachers for incredible learning experiences that are taking place throughout the month. Also, we will be starting our afterschool Science Club at the end of the month – information on how to participate will be forthcoming.

We are excited to participate in the DIBELS reading assessment and our SAGE Interim assessment. These two assessment tools help us to see the progress of our students are making in their core subjects by this midway point of the year. The data collected will help us to continue to move forward with our school-wide reading programs and Shark Attack Time (Flex Time). As you will recall these wonderful programs, which are funded by our Trust Lands Grant, help us deliver instruction in a more individualized way to each student.

Speaking of reading . . . As a child, and now with my own family, we share the tradition of receiving a new holiday book each year to read together. Keeping with that tradition here at Saratoga Shores I had the opportunity to visit with every grade during Dr. T's Holiday Read to read and to share holiday traditions during December. In January Dr. T's Readers is back in full swing with the following books: **Grades 1-2 *Gooney Bird Greene* By Lois Lowry Grades 3-4 *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* By Lenore Look; Grades 5-6 *Night of the Twisters* By Ivy Ruckman.** My monthly reminder is, as always, to please keep encouraging your students to read not only the Dr. T books, but also any good book they can get their hands on.

Thank you for the support we feel each day as we continue to the "Building a Community of Learners – One Student At a Time" here at Saratoga shores!

Dr. Thomas - Principal