

James Cain Editorial
Sunday, April 17, 2016

In Appreciation of Teachers

May 3, 2016 will be a momentous day for Port Huron Schools. While it is the election date for the two-proposal bond for the district, it is also National Teacher Appreciation Day. In fact, the entire first week of May is National Teacher Appreciation Week. We will celebrate our great educators by awarding our second annual "Advocator," "Innovator" and "Educator" of the Year Awards. We mark this occasion by delivering prizes sponsored by the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Port Huron and Freighters Eatery & Taproom. It's my privilege to surprise the winners who can be any person employed by Port Huron Schools and can be nominated by anyone via www.phasd.us > Parents > Nomination Forms. Each month, in the Superintendent's Report at Board of Education meetings, time is dedicated to recognize exceptional staff and students throughout our district. I appreciate Insurance Specialists Agency, our local Meemic Agent and the Port Huron Prowlers for their sponsorship and support in these recognitions. It has been incredibly rewarding to take time to acknowledge some of the impressive personal and professional achievements happening in our district on an ongoing basis.

Being a teacher is a calling to one of the most rewarding and personal commitments an individual can undertake. It is accepting the responsibility to teach a specific subject matter, but also requires the focus and strength of being a mentor, coach, counselor and role model. We as a district are all working in unity to create opportunities for our students that will develop into prosperity for our community and our teachers are at the heart of it all, making a difference daily with our students.

It is inspiring to see how many local, state and even national accolades our students and staff earn on an ongoing and regular basis. We have exceptional talent in our community and I ask you to acknowledge some of those achievements and individuals throughout the upcoming National Teacher Appreciation Week and beyond. As a district, we promote our positivity and pride through our social media, website, smartphone app and PHS-TV programming.

As a community, one of our hallmarks of quality must be our education system. Our prosperity and progress as a region depends on our ability to teach and provide for our children's wellbeing. Often, a teacher has to make sacrifices beyond the classroom requirements to support his or her students as they struggle with personal challenges. That care and commitment to change another person's life for the better is what makes education a unique profession. I am sure that you, as a reader, can certainly recall a teacher who left a positive impression on your life. I know I can and continue to encounter those inspiring individuals on a regular basis.

Let's not take them for granted. Let's appreciate them for the impact they create. Let's make May 3 a celebration of the best and brightest our community has to offer. It's truly a day of thanks and opportunity to support Port Huron Schools, its educators and the mark they make on our cherished students and families every day.