

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, Colleagues & Community Partners,

Happy holidays! I'm grateful for each of you and the dedicated, passionate support you provide every day for and with our students. It is truly because of you that our schools are wonderful safe havens and quality learning environments for our students. I understand how the holidays can be even more challenging than regular days for some. Because of this, I'd like to share some words that I came across recently that might help you as they have helped me. Here is one way to focus on the strengths and capabilities we have as we traverse challenging times together and individually. "Appreciate. To appreciate in times of despair is both to fully face what is and to find within the dark even the smallest of possible things to value ... The practice of finding things to appreciate grows over time and can add to (our) capacity in times of despair." For more on this, you may go to

<https://www.smartbrief.com/original/2018/12/finding-strength-learn-and-lead-tough-times>

Finally, I'd like to give a warm welcome to our newly elected Board Members, James Marzano, Deborah Pulskamp, and Kandi Thompson. All of the members of our Governance Team are our lead learners and I know that each one enthusiastically embraces his/her role and service to all students of Amador County Public Schools. As we move into the winter season, I sincerely wish you a relaxing and beautiful holiday time. Peace be with you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D., Superintendent

Amador County Unified School District