



Cheeseman's Chronicles

Matthew Cheeseman, Superintendent of Schools

Holiday Thoughts

As we celebrate this holiday season, I think it is only appropriate that this column offer some heartfelt gratitude for the gifts that so many parents, interested citizens, school employees, church leaders and elective and appointed officials, have brought to the Perquimans County Schools during 2016.

Each of these groups, and individuals within each, has worked diligently together to make a positive difference in the lives of the children and youth of Perquimans County.

Parents, as you desire to learn more about how to engage your child in learning, your modeling the significant gift of a world-class education is important. Your visits to schools, phone calls, and holding your child accountable for his or her learning are both a gift to them and to

Perquimans County Schools. Thank you for that valuable, genuine gift of student/family engagement.

The interest by citizens without children has been remarkable. It says to me what I intuitively have known, that Perquimans County citizens want to be informed about matters that impact them. Your phone calls, emails and questions at community events have been an inspiration. What a great gift you are giving the future adults of our community by your intense interest in educational and governmental matters. Thank you for that valuable, genuine gift.

To all school employees, your dedication to duty and the students enrolled in Perquimans County Schools is so critical to the future of this county, North Carolina and The United States of America. For the daily voracious energy and modeling of how important learning, sound values and consistent work ethic are encompassed in all lessons, you provide students lessons over and beyond book learning. Thank you for that valuable, genuine gift.

To church leaders, regardless of your role and responsibility, who have gone the extra mile to reach out to all students of Perquimans County, you are teaching the importance of a strong faith and the values of moral

leadership in all that students and their families undertake in life. Thank you for that valuable, genuine gift.

To elected and appointed leaders of Perquimans County, you have patiently listened and responded to the needs of Perquimans County Schools and have conscientiously and fairly worked with us in a very critical juncture to provide a world-class education for all students of Perquimans County. Thank you for that valuable, genuine gift.

It has been said many times that “It takes a village to raise a child.” In fact, it does. But it also takes a resolve and a desire to truly place, as the Rotary motto states, “Service Above Self.” I am proud to say that I am blessed to work in a county that shares daily its various gifts so that students can learn, through deeds, not words, what it means to be a conscientious, concerned, and caring individual. Thank you for giving those valuable, genuine gifts to the students of Perquimans County. I am most grateful. Happy Holidays!