



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

MICHAEL CITTA

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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To our Toms River Regional Schools staff, parents, and families:

Possibly you're asking yourself the same question I am, which is: *Where did the past two-and-a-half months go?* It feels like yesterday I was writing to you about the start of the school year, and suddenly it's Thanksgiving Eve.

It's tempting to say that I don't know what happened, but I suspect that I might. The early part of this year has been a blur, yes, but certainly not a slog. The axiom that "time flies when you're having fun" is true, and that's what I believe has happened, and it's something for which I'm incredibly grateful.

The type of productive, joyous, and/or inspirational moments which make time fly are rarely if ever solitary. The times for which we're most grateful are shared. Everyday hallway conversations with students or teachers that are open and honest and which leave us feeling confident and hopeful. Colleagues who seem to have a sixth sense for when to share a joke so we stop taking ourselves so seriously. Friends in the community like our local law enforcement who reassure us with their words and mere presence. Businesses and nonprofits who make it their mission to support our students, and who do so with a smile and a handshake. Parents and guardians who take just a minute of their time to make us feel valued and appreciated. In a young school year thankfully unbound by some of the complications and restrictions of recent years, these moments have added up to form something of a montage.

It's no surprise, then, with so many great things going on, and so many extraordinary people to share them with, that time has flown by. I'm personally thankful for every second of it, and our entire team here realizes that all of the joyous moments we've experienced are the result of the hard work, dedication, and individual personalities of our staff, our parents and families, and this close-knit, second-to-none greater Toms River community.

It's with that in mind, and with a full heart, that I thank each and every one of you for everything you do, and wish you and your families and loved ones a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. May your holiday and extended weekend be super fun ... but not so fast.

Sincerely,

Michael Citta
Superintendent of Schools