

Reed City Teachers and Staff – Lots of Great People!

by Steven B. Westhoff, Superintendent

“I have been to many places and seen many things, but somehow I always come back to Reed City.” “I do not know if this is happening through chance or through fate; however, I do know that I love this town and everything about it and I know this is where I want to be.”

This quote came from a cover letter of one of the new teachers in our school system. It was written as a result of the extremely positive experiences this young teacher had with the great people that work in our school system and live in our community.

I'd like to share with you some examples/stories about some of our staff who have had a life-changing effect on some of our students and others. I won't be using names, however, these people are real and their love for kids and what they do makes all the difference.

One of our little boys had an accident in the restroom; his pants were pretty wet, and you could tell he was very embarrassed, though none of his peers were aware of his problem. If he continues down the hallway to the office or back to class, everyone will surely know. A good air dry from the bathroom hand dryer and a quick call to parents and the problem was solved. This staff member gave up lunch time to help out.

A little girl who was a new student to our district was very upset and crying when her parents walked off and left her on the first day of school. Two staff members took her under their caring arms and calmed her down, introduced her to other students who became her friends, and took the extra time to make a big difference.

An elderly visitor to one of our events was visibly upset and confused when she returned to her car to find a flat tire. It was cold, snowing and pretty dark; our guest didn't know what to do. A staff member calmed her down, changed her flat tire and helped her get safely home.

A young man came to school one 15-degree morning shivering, jumping up and down, and wearing no coat. A staff member asked, “Where's your coat?” “I don't have one,” was the reply. The family couldn't afford to buy him one. Heat for the home was more important. Thanks to a staff member that young student had a new winter coat that same afternoon.

If you've noticed none of these things took place inside classrooms. I can guarantee you lots of other wonderful things to help out students did occur within those classroom walls. Teachers don't just instruct; custodians don't just clean; cooks don't just make food; secretaries don't just answer phones; administrators don't just make you mad (this last one is a joke), they all care about kids. They've dedicated their lives to working with and for kids. I'm proud to say we have some of the very best. My daughters have had incredible teachers, who they love dearly; my kids are as happy as I've ever seen them. That's because we have “Lots of Great People.”