

## Thank You to Parent & Community Volunteers

by Dr. Greg Plutko

Just recently, I was getting the now rare and even more valued opportunity to have dinner with my 27-year-old daughter Sara and her husband Morgan. As they have been married for two years now, my wife and I often wonder about...well you know...becoming grandparents! Halfway through dinner, they began to ask questions about what it was like to raise children and the challenge of being parents. We thought for sure this was it! We would hear the magic words, but instead (and yes, it was a little bit of a let down) they sincerely wanted to know about the role of parents through our eyes. It was one of the memories Sara shared that led me to this brief article.

Sara recalled her fourth-grade classroom and later another memory from her sophomore year. The commonality in both cases had to do with volunteerism and the role her mom played in shaping her views. She vividly recounted that fourth-grade year and how proud she was that her mom was volunteering for the teachers to make copies, staple, and organize papers for the classroom. The next memory came from her sophomore year, and how her mom again (there is a theme, and yes, I was there from time to time) volunteered to help with yearbook and PE clothes sales for the start of school. She admitted she was a little more embarrassed and even shared a teenage concern or two with her friends. Quickly, though, she added that deep down, she was thrilled and so appreciative. It was the connection that her husband Morgan shared that reminded me of the work that has been done for our students from kindergarten through graduation. Each day, our families find ways to support their students, as well as all the other

students who are connected to this educational journey. Morgan said, “I guess it will be really important for Sara and I to volunteer a lot at school.” Yes, Morgan, it will!!

As we reflect upon the great start to our school year, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank all of our parent and community volunteers. I am confident that just as Sara has fond memories of support, our students today carry the very same special moments of support with them as well. From PTSA to booster clubs, and VIPs to so many who were always ready for action at the first call or email for help...THANK YOU!