

SOUTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Scott Feder

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June 22, 2021

Dear South Brunswick Families,

As I look back at all of the correspondence sent home this year, I find solace in knowing that this will be the final one for the 2020-2021 school year (Ok, *solace* may be the politically correct term, but my internal thoughts are (WHOOPIE, YAHOO and GEE WHIZ - IT'S ABOUT TIME!!!!) Reflecting back, I would have to say that this year, more than ever, every single person in this district; whether student, parent, or staff member has earned this summer break, and my summer assignment to each of you is to take some time for you....reflect upon this year and what has been gained.

As the year, winds down, I have to say that things are ending on a positive note. Today, we held our Class of 2021 Commencement as we have done pre-Covid, IN-PERSON! Crossroads North and South 8th Grade Graduation was held on the high school football field last week and little by little, there is the glimmer and hope that things are returning back to what once was considered "normal".

I am not sure I want to go back to the way it was. No, I do not mean that I want any further continuation of Covid or anything related to Covid protocols and Covid news stories dominating our TV's and newspapers. What I am referring to is an idea that we can come back to something better than what we had pre-Covid. I am wanting for South Brunswick to be a convergence of the best of pre-pandemic school and the positives of what we have gained in considering teaching and learning. I guess I want the proverbial best of both worlds and to have my cake and eat it too! Freddie Mercury of Queen sang, "I want it all" and since I love Queen, I guess I want it all too!

The truth is, if we don't aim for incredible heights, we will just revert back to what we had. Now, that isn't exactly a bad thing as this was a pretty darn impressive place before the pandemic and I have no doubt it will be after it. But is there more? Can we be so greedy as to want something even better? I say we have to want more and cannot go back without going forward. I am not sure yet what we need to do, but I feel it in my bones that it includes the best of what we endured these last 15 months and the best of what we had before.

As we close out the 2020-2021 school year, we do so by looking ahead. Of course, only after we take a few weeks to regroup, rejuvenate and just lay down somewhere on a beach listening to Buffett sing about "cheeseburgers in paradise". But then we will get back to looking ahead and dreaming about what is possible for this school community.

The summer is when we get our juices flowing and this summer we will be able to focus on the possibilities for what education could be.

To our parents - Thank you for your patience, support and understanding. You have done a remarkable job caring for your children and helping them keep their spirits high, when it would have been so easy to let them sink. You have been amazing and such a key to the successes that were had during this crazy year.

To our staff - I am not sure what accolades still exist that have not been shared. You took everything you were ever taught about schooling and somehow adapted to this new reality and while I know it felt nearly impossible at times, you figured it out and made it possible for the children of this community to grow and succeed at the highest levels.

To our students - Where to begin? A year and then some of various challenges, all met with a resilience that knew no bounds. You surprised us all with your daily smiles and became role models for us old folks. You just went with the flow and made it work. You were and are amazing!

I close out this year with a calm and confidence in what is to come. We made it through the hard stuff, so watch out South Brunswick - there is no stopping us now!

This is Scott Feder signing off on the finally final, last, closing, culminating, finishing and concluding communication of the year!

Happy Summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SCOTT FEDER". It is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.