



February 5, 2021

Dear SBCSC families,

This week, my colleagues and I spoke with Hay and Tarkington Elementary communities to discuss the potential closures of their schools, what they can expect if this occurs, and how our district's rightsizing plan may look for these stakeholders following the Board of School Trustees' vote on the 22nd of the month. Your concerns, ideas, and questions are crucial to the direction and mission of our district. I realize these potential changes make for an extraordinarily difficult time for many of you, and I'm grateful for your patience, outreach, and dedication to our students and one another. Please know that with these likely changes are our renewed efforts to further academic excellence, equity, diversity, and a more supportive community for all.

Thanks to our teachers for all they are doing to celebrate Black History Month within their curricula. Our Student Services Team held a special drumming celebration this past Wednesday for our staff with Nicole Williams of "[Rhythm to You](#)" helping us explore our human interconnectedness and the African philosophy of "*Ubuntu: I am because you are.*" I'm looking forward to many other events throughout the month celebrating Black history, identity, representation, and diversity.

This week is National School Counselors Week, and together with educators across the country, we have been honored to join in celebrating this year's theme, "School Counselors: All In for All Students." To our many counselors, thank you for all you do for our incredible students.

Today, a treasured educator, Edison Middle School's Communication and Assisted Technology Specialist Marilou VanderGriend, was presented the Starfish Award from the [PATINS Project](#), a state-wide technical assistance network that connects educators to necessary resources. This surprise recognition, planned by her colleague Marilyn Cahalan, as well as leaders from PATINS, was presented during a Google meeting this morning. Thank you, Marilou, for your compassionate leadership within our schools, for your service, and for bringing about lasting change for our learners.

On Wednesday of this week, we celebrated [World Read Aloud Day](#). Thank you to our many teachers and parents who continue to make tremendous differences in the lives of our students by reading to them daily and fostering a love for literature.

Congratulations to our Riley Wildcats for winning the McCullough Cup during last night's boys basketball game at Washington High School. Also this week the Adams boys basketball teams' victory over Bremen secured their thousandth win. Great work on a job well done.

Thanks for another great week of learning. Remember to read a book, watch a classic film, listen to an album, and keep up the great work of bringing our COVID rates down!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Todd Cummings".

C. Todd Cummings, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools