April 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you are enjoying today's beautiful weather! This Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> is School Lunch Hero Day. Our food services staff have certainly been HEROES this year! They have been preparing, packaging, and providing hundreds of breakfast and lunch meals to go every week. Rain or shine, they have been keeping our children fed Sunday through Saturday. I am hoping that many of our students will show their appreciation to our lunch heroes by sending a message to <u>cbuckley@boltonct.org</u> by this Friday. Please be sure to include your name and school on the messages and thank you for letting these dedicated people know you appreciate all they are doing for our community.

Next week, Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4 - 8), is going to be very different. This week is meant to honor teachers and provide an opportunity to show appreciation and gratitude for the things they do for their students. I know that this a very challenging time for all of us. I think it is especially challenging not only for teachers, but for parents as you are managing your home and work life during this pandemic while helping to educate your child(ren). As a result, more and more people are coming to understand just how difficult teaching really is and our teachers choose to do it every day. Teachers teach because they want to make a difference for children and help to move them to a successful future. Our administrators, administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, and custodians are also working very hard during this time to support our students and families and we would like to honor them as well.

This year more than ever, heartfelt messages are key to showing our appreciation. It is important to communicate how much their work means and how they have made a difference. Most of all, we are all really missing being with the kids! Below are some "Thank You" ideas you and your child(ren) may want to consider sending next week to a teacher and/or staff member:

- A note about what they have learned
- Email a photo message
- Send them a digital or e-card
- Make a personal thank you video
- Create a voice recording
- Design a hand-made work of art
- Team up with other students and families to make a photo collage message

I hope these ideas inspire you to send a "Thank You" to a teacher and/or member of our staff.

Stay safe and be well,

Kristin B. Heckt

Kristin B. Heckt

Superintendent of Schools