October 15, 2014

Dear RMSEL Students and Parent Community,

On Monday morning, upon my arrival to the office, I found a white packet lying across the keyboard of my computer. At any given time during the course of a school week, I receive numerous packets, flyers, mailers, etc., most of which contain perspectives on education or advertisements with a general focus on improving student achievement and how an organization can help. When I opened this packet, it was different, as the contents invited our students and our community to help and contribute to the lives of others. This packet was delivered by a student leader, not the postman. After speaking with the student, I was taken aback by the student’s passion and the importance of our participation this school year.

I am honored to share our invitation to participate in a tribute to active duty service men and women, veterans, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms as American citizens. Saluting America - Honoring Military Service: Past and Present is a Colorado-based organization that pays tribute to those who serve or have served in a branch of our country’s armed forces (www.salutingamerica.org). The unique aspect of this program is that it is not a curriculum or project, but a sincere heartfelt thank you to an unknown veteran or active duty service member in our country. Each student will be invited during family groups on November 5, 2014, to write a personal message through a tribute card provided by Saluting America. The simple thank you from a student has a profound impact on each recipient.

Each tribute card includes The American’s Creed, written by William Tyler Page and adopted by the House of Representatives, that states, “I believe in the United States of America…established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives…It is my duty to my country to love it, support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect the flag, and to defend it against all enemies.”

Saluting America sponsor and Medal of Honor Recipient Don Ballard shared, “It allows that recipient, that military guy, to know that people back home care. There is no greater love, than to have the support of the Americans behind us when we are out risking our life, out fighting for us, these cards mean a lot to us.”

The active duty service men and women, veterans, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms outlined by our constitution should be thanked each and every day of the year. Veteran’s Day on the 11th day of the 11th month symbolizes our appreciation and gratitude to the men and women who fought with valor and courage to uphold the values of our great nation. One value and freedom that we benefit from as a school, is the opportunity to receive a public education as an American citizen. Our staff, families, and students have access to our great school and education because of those who serve to protect our nation and freedom. I am ever indebted to their sacrifice, valor, and honor.

During the course of the next month, I will be working with student leaders to organize a school-wide tribute and special thank you to Veterans in our community. Please stay posted for additional details regarding Veterans’ Day.

Sincerely,

Chad