

Kid Scoop News Monthly Superintendent Note (October 2018)

Greetings Students and Families!! I trust that the 2018-2019 school year has gotten off to a great start. Great starts are important but they do not always guarantee success. See the following examples from the sports world:

- In the 2004 American League Championship Series, the New York Yankees had a comfortable 3 game to none lead (in a best of 7 series) over their rival the Boston Red Sox only to see the Red Sox win 4 straight games to advance to the World Series!!
- In a 1993 NFL Playoff Wildcard Game, the Houston Oilers held a comfortable 35-3 lead over the Buffalo Bills (lead by backup quarterback Frank Reich) in the 3rd quarter only to see Buffalo storm back to win 38-35!!
- In Game 4 of the 2008 NBA Finals, the Los Angeles Lakers lead 35-14 at the end of the first quarter and lead by as many as 24 points during the game only to see their rival the Boston Celtics come back to win 97-91 to take a 3-1 series lead.

As you can see from the sports examples from above, a positive start does not always equal a positive end.

At this point in the school year I will venture a guess that:

- your new bookbag probably has a zipper that sticks
- your new school shoes have scuffs on them
- you have already went through your new “back to school” wardrobe
- you aren’t waking up as easily as you did when the school year first started
- your class(es) have moved past everything you knew and you are now working on new material that is difficult for you
- the little things your teachers say or do that you thought were funny during the first week of school get on your last nerve now

Stated plainly: the honeymoon is over!! We are now engaged in what I like to call “the daily grind”. We are into routines that help organize our activities and movements from the time we wake up in the morning until the time we fall asleep at night. It is easy at this point in the year to fall back into old patterns that feel comfortable to us even if they are not positive patterns (examples include: staying up too late, falling asleep during class, not paying attention when directions are being given, not giving your best effort in your work because you do not see the value or relevance of it).

Even though we are no longer at the beginning of the school year anymore, I want to encourage you with two simple words “KEEP MOVING”. Even if the pace you work at or walk is not the same as everyone else’s, KEEP MOVING. Even if you feel totally lost because you do not completely understand the material your class is working on, KEEP MOVING. Even if you feel like everyone around you is unkind and you think acting like them would be so much easier, KEEP MOVING. Even if you feel like no one ever notices the good work you are doing and only point out the items you got wrong, KEEP MOVING.

Regardless of how little or how much effort and energy you put into this school year, the last day of school will eventually come. The question is, did you simply do your time (like a prison sentence) or did you do your best? You will spend the rest of your precious lives either doing your time or doing your best. If you want your life to count for something and you truly want to leave your world better than you found it, you simply have to do your best everyday of your life. Every one of us were created with talents and abilities that are unique. If every one of us do our personal best to use these talents and abilities every day, we will see our world transform.

Tyrone Willingham (former head football coach at Stanford University and the University of Notre Dame) used to remind his players that in the battle between the Rock and the Stream, the Stream always wins because unlike the Rock, it keeps moving. Follow the example of the Stream, and KEEP MOVING!!!!