

## **Kid Scoop News November 2018 (Newton-Conover City Schools)**

### **Superintendent's Corner**

The Thanksgiving holiday was instituted in 1863 by a man who had suffered through: failed business ventures that left him deep in debt, an unsuccessful 4-year courtship that left him alone, the death of a child, deep depression; losses in several elections including Congress and the Vice-Presidency, and was at the time struggling to reunite a nation divided by the Civil War. He decided that as a nation we needed to take a day to focus on all of the things we had to be thankful for. This man was none other than Abraham Lincoln.

I have thinking a lot about the many blessings in my life that I have to be thankful for. Here are just a few of the things I am thankful for:

- Health to get up each day to work in a district I love, with people I love, and for kids I love!!
- That I live in a country where there is freedom to provide education to all children regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic status
- Loving Families that give us the stability we need to make it in this life
- Friends who love us just as we are and allow us to be ourselves
- Clear, starlit nights that remind me of how small I am compared with the rest of the universe
- Summer's evenings when the sun stays out late, fireflies light up the sky like mini-torches, and the homeless won't freeze to death
- Ministers who offer hope and support during our darkest hours
- Troops who won't be spending Thanksgiving at home with their family but are preserving our freedom to spend it with ours
- Volunteers who help fill in the gaps where funds no longer exist to pay someone to provide a vital service
- Newton-Conover City Schools Staff who, for far less compensation than they are worth, come to work everyday because of each child in our system

While the above list is just a sample of the many things I am thankful for, I think you can see that there are many small things in life that we take for granted that makes all of the difference in our finding happiness and contentment. The question is, will you make the CHOICE to be THANKFUL?? There is a story in the Gospel of Luke (17:11-19) about 10 lepers who saw Jesus pass by and cried out in loud voices to be healed of their affliction. Jesus spoke healing on them and told them to show themselves to the priests as proof of their cleansing. Only one of the lepers came back to say thanks. Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" The other nine, like many of us, are quick to ask for something but not quite as quick to say "Thank You" once we get it.

As we enter the "Holiday Season" that includes both Thanksgiving and Christmas, I challenge you to make the CHOICE to be THANKFUL. You could start by making a list of all of the things you are thankful for. It is very easy to focus on our "Christmas List" and what we hope to get and forget all of the wonderful things that we have already been given. I also want each of you to know that I am thankful for you as students because you are the reason we exist as a school system.