



Nebo Special Education

Issue 3

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From the Desk of: Mike Murray Supervisor, Special Education and Federal Programs

Last week I attended the Utah County Special Needs Conference held at Mountain View High School. This conference has been an annual event for the past several years organized to mainly provide parents with the opportunity to receive information and support for their children with disabilities. I have taken the opportunity to attend the conference a few times. I have specifically gone because it offers me a chance to associate with parents in a positive, non-issue specific environment. It often seems that when I'm talking to parents in my office that it's because of a specific concern that they have that they want resolved as soon as possible which sometimes results in a less-than-ideal setting for positive relationships and effective communication.

Each time that I've at-

tended the Special Needs Conference I've come away with a clearer perception of the challenges faced by parents who have children with disabilities. I have a renewed desire to do whatever I can to better understand and provide assistance to the parents of the students we serve in our district. I believe that good things come from being able to step outside of my own little world and experience things through the eyes, ears and hearts of others.

The feelings that I've experienced each time after attending this conference remind me of an experience near the beginning of my career. After working as a school psychologist for a few years in the district, I had reached the point where I would inwardly groan each time a principal or a teacher would

contact me about a student they were concerned about or when the phone would ring with a call from a parent with a problem or from someone from the district with an assignment to take care of. I was beginning to get stressed out and not like my job very much!

One very fortunate day, I was able to recognize the error of my thought process. It occurred to me that my job really was all about being a problem solver or if possible a problem preventer. I recognized that each contact or phone call was an opportunity to fix something or to help someone or to prevent a situation from becoming a problem. I actually began to look forward to phone calls and knocks on my door (that was before the birth of e-mails!) because I



realized that if people weren't talking to me, then they were either keeping it bottled up only to come out later in uglier ways or they were talking to others who were in less of an advantageous position to take care of the situation. I began sincerely thanking people for sharing their concerns with me even if they expressed the viewpoint that I was part of the problem which admittedly hurt a little bit, and still does today! That day, that change in thinking though, was the changing point in my career! (cont.)

Mike Murray, continued

In my current position, that resolve to view problems as opportunities to turn things in a more positive direction is tested daily, if not hourly.

I know that all of you face the same kinds of situations on a school level that come to my attention on a district level. I'm sure that it is difficult to face some of these issues at the end of a long day or week after doing your best

to prepare lessons, instruct students, keep up on paperwork, etc.

I encourage you though to find ways to step outside of yourself and to look at things from the point of view of a parent or a general education teacher or an administrator. This may help you put forth your best effort in effectively communicating with others to sincerely address, and hopefully resolve in positive ways, the issues

that inevitably come with our jobs as special educators!

As you consistently do your best, the worst will never happen.

~B.C. Forbes

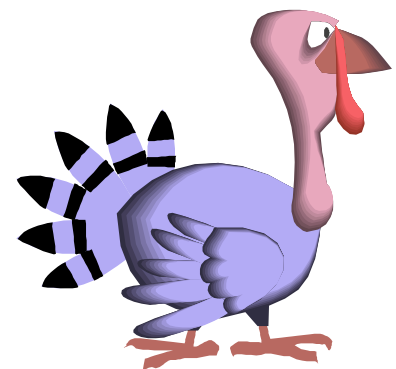
Lillian Clark- Speech/Language Specialist

I am a Speech/Language Specialist for Nebo School District. My responsibilities include supervising the speech field supervisors, mentoring, supervising new SLP's, helping plan and facilitate monthly speech staff meetings, providing speech consults with SLP's as needed, District liaison for Headstart, and being one of the LEA's for Pre-school testing. I am fortunate to work with Cheri Cornaby and assist her with whatever she needs. I also get to actually be an SLP for Goshen Elementary and for the TLC speech preschool classes at Spring Lake! (That is defi-

nately the favorite part of my job!) We have a tremendous group of SLP's and SLT's in our district that are wonderful to work with. They are talented and creative and are doing great things for the students in Nebo district.

This is my 23rd year as an SLP in the schools and my 13th year with Nebo School District. I am married to Sterling Clark, a Highway Patrol Trooper here in Utah County, and together we have five terrific children. The oldest child started college this year on the same day

that the youngest started Kindergarten. So, between school and family, life is full and busy and certainly never boring!



Gobble, Gobble

Morgan Bulkley - Psychologist, Teacher Leader

Morgan Bulkley has worked as a school psychologist for Nebo School District for seven years at various schools. Morgan conducts assessments on English language learners to help determine special education eligibility, and was recently assigned as teacher leader for the psychologists. Morgan also con-

ducts monthly inservice for the psychologists and keeps track of all protocols.

Morgan lives in Payson with his wife and 5 children. In the fall when he is not at school you will find him on the football field officiating little league and High School games.



For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Teaching With Passion By Steve Gilliland

"The burning desire to make a difference for students and persist and persevere defines your level of effectiveness. Passion means being able to take the frustration, the roadblocks, the disappointments and the endless stress and still want to come to work each day determined to turn vision into reality. When you *teach with passion*, you are able to inspire and still hold people accountable. Without a passionate commitment, educators cannot last in a leadership role because the

needs often surpass the resources available to meet them. Being a successful teacher is not a thing you acquire or achieve. Rather, it is a journey you take your whole career."

~Steve Gilliland

Steve Gilliland, CSP, is one of the most in-demand and top-rated speakers in the United States and Canada.

A talented speaker and author, Steve Gilliland has an appeal that transcends barriers of age, culture and occupation. He speaks to more than 250,000 people annually and influences the lives of millions through his

keynote speeches, books, CDs and DVDs.

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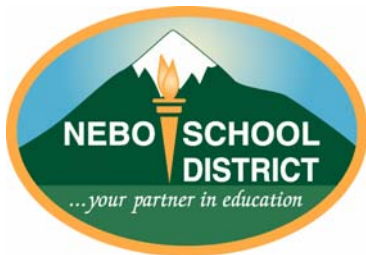
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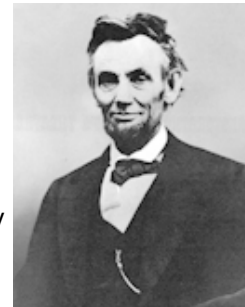
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Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation Washington, DC—October 3, 1863

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they can not fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.



In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well as the iron and coal as of our precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the imposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 3d day of October, A.D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

~Abraham Lincoln