



Tomorrow's News Today

News From the Tomorrow River School District

From Dennis Raabe, District Administrator —

April, 2017

I looked at the calendar this morning, and I was surprised to learn that the school year was quickly passing by. Imagine that! In all honesty, I had a bit of “writer’s block,” so I got on the world wide web and looked at some notable April events for inspiration. In my research, I learned that Ponce De Leon sighted Florida for the first time, Hans Christian Andersen was born, and the Pony Express had its beginning, all in the month of April. Good stuff, but nothing really hit me. After all, I have had some challenges both professionally and personally during the course of the year, similar to most of you, I assume, and some decisions that I have been contemplating were weighing heavy upon me.

That’s when I read about two other events which happened in April, and I have to admit I felt a bit guilty for the pity party I have been throwing myself. It is hard to give too much credence to how difficult things might be in one’s life when you put your issues into context of the challenges which individuals less fortunate than oneself have had to endure. Consider the forced march which began on April 10th, 1942, just shortly, in lifetime terms, before I had the pleasure of joining the human race. In this march, 76,000 POWs were forced to travel in excess of 60 miles in the unbearable heat of the Philippines, without adequate food or water. Of the 76,000 Filipino and American POWs who began the hike, nearly a third perished. If I laid out the “concerns” I have had on my docket, to a survivor of what has become known as the Bataan Death March, I might seem like a bit of a whiner, and for good reason.

Another event which happened in the month of April, and which gave me pause regarding my perspective, began on April 10th, 1970. It was on this day that three Americans left the earth’s atmosphere for a real life trip to the moon. Two days into their journey, an oxygen tank exploded, and Astronaut Jack Swigert spoke those famous words, “Houston, we have a problem.” Understated, of course, and they marked only the beginning of several days of high ended decision making which had life and death consequences for these American heroes. Again, I think if I shared with the people involved in this epic moment of American history the “problems” I deal with, they might not be overly impressed with the gravity of the issues. Pun intended.

My point is that everything is relative, and it is important to look beyond our personal experiences and situations in order to gain perspective. This is true in our personal lives as it is true in our chosen fields of endeavor. It is also true of School Districts. While I am strongly biased, I know that we, as a District, are not perfect. There are times we make decisions which not everyone agrees with. We have areas in which we would seek to improve upon. We have challenges to providing the best programming to our scholars, that occasionally give us something to think about. However, I believe that there is value in stepping back and viewing our District, our educators, our community, our parents, and our scholars in a broader perspective. When we do, I believe most can agree that the Tomorrow River School District is a great place to educate students, a great place to be an educator, and an exceptional asset to our community. This does not happen by chance, but through the collaborative efforts of all stake holders. Thank you for being a community so supportive of our School District, our educators, and our scholars. I hope the positive perspective I have of our District is one that you share!