



DECEMBER 17, 2007

During the upcoming days, many ethnic, cultural, and religious celebrations will occur. Included, but not limited to, in the time frame from December 20th through December 31st are the following:

- Eid al-adha
- Christmas
- Hanukkah
- Kwanzaa

While other celebrations of one's diversity, religious beliefs, or cultures may also occur, my point is a simple one: let us all take some time to share ourselves with our families and friends and reflect on our beliefs, however diverse these beliefs may be.

One belief that we all have is that we want the best that we can provide for our children. Within the upcoming month, our school district's Strategic Planning process becomes a reality. My "think tank" budget committee also begins its work in discussing priorities and options for the 2008-2009 school district budget. Before we know it, the 2007-2008 school year will be over, and we must be prepared for the 2008-2009 school year.

I know our administrators, faculty, support staff, and Board of Education members are ready to do their "personal best" as we plan for the upcoming school year. Part of all the many discussions that will occur will be the recognition of the correct questions as well as seeking the appropriate answers. I often think of one saying – Nothing is as useless as the right answer to the wrong question.

Just as in previous years, our school district will be asking for our community members' input. Whether it be through Strategic Planning focus groups, personal conversations, or e-mails, I look forward to hearing our community's thoughts on a variety of issues.

As a reminder, the last school day this calendar year will be Friday, December 21, 2007. School resumes on Monday, January 7, 2008.

No matter what your belief system is, let us enjoy the upcoming few weeks as we all wish for world peace and harmony among all nations. May 2008 become the best year ever for all of us as we all work to do our "personal best" in all aspects of our lives.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of having your children in our school district. We will never take having your children in our schools for granted. I look forward to the upcoming calendar year with optimism that, indeed, 2008 will be the greatest year ever for the Holly Area School District.