

# J. M. S. News. . . by Donald F. Gately

## November 21, 2007

### Quote of the Week for November 26<sup>th</sup>

"Good thoughts are no better than good dreams, unless they be executed."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



### Thanksgiving

Prosperity and health are relative. Regardless of how we are situated, we can always find others who are worse off than we are.

Later in the year, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will read Anne Frank: A Diary of a Young Girl. Consider this quote from her memoir:

*"Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy."*

What has always struck me about this amazing book is how little of it is devoted to the historical conditions of its time. Despite the fact that Anne is forced into hiding by horrific conditions and that she and her family share 3 rooms with two other families, she is thankful and hopeful for the future. It's an amazing lesson in gratitude for our students and for us this Thanksgiving. These are some of the ways that we teach Social Emotional Literacy to students at the middle school. I know you encourage this at home as well. Have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. Enjoy!

### District Information Night for Multi-Cultural Families

On Thursday, November 29, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. a District Information Night for Multi-Cultural Families will be held in the middle school library.

As you know, the district participated last year in the Comprehensive School Climate Survey through the Center for Social and Emotional Education (CSEE). A significant area deserving of attention is the district's (and middle school's) approach to the diversity of our student population.

According to recent BEDS (Basic Educational Data System) data, our student population has grown increasingly diverse over the past five years. So, as principal, I ask myself, how well does the school meet the needs of this diverse community of students and families? Is the school welcoming enough? Does the school communicate well enough? Do diverse families feel part of the middle school family? I sincerely want for all the members of our school community to feel part of the middle school family. I hope to see many parents at this meeting to help the school achieve this goal.

Please go to the district website for additional information: [www.jerichoschools.org](http://www.jerichoschools.org).