



EUGENE AUER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Ken Gutmann, Principal

December 22, 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

I have to admit, it's been harder than ever to get into the holiday spirit this year! Our world has certainly become a chaotic and confusing place over the past couple of years and it's sometimes hard to find the positives in a world that bombards us with negatives. But, lucky for me - I work in a school where I am surrounded by wise young men and women who can point all of us in the right direction.

We need only take a look at our students, to be the stars that lead us to the right perspective on life. Their enthusiasm, their sense of wonder and their focus on here and now help to remind us that life is still good. Each day the smiles, even hidden behind masks, help us to remember that no matter what we are faced with, there is still hope. Hope keeps the spirit of the season alive and hope reminds us that not only are there better days ahead, but that even these days are filled with moments of goodness and happiness that we must not overlook.

Each person who enters our building is greeted by our new mural with the words "Be Joyful" written to remind us to find joy in all things. It is a fitting greeting because our hallways and our classrooms are filled with joy - not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year. The joy that we are fortunate to experience each day is due to the incredible community that we have at Eugene Auer. Our students, our staff and our families come together in so many different ways and transform our school into a second family for all of us. So, there is much to be thankful for and there is much to be joyful about.

My wish for all of you this holiday season is that you find the joy in the small moments that you will experience in the many rich and diverse traditions that we celebrate in so many different ways this month. Though the traditions may be different, the messages are still the same and they remind us that we are more alike than we are different. We are searching for the same star and if we follow the joy of our students, we will get to a place of hope and renew our spirits.

Thank you for all that you do and for the privilege of entrusting your children to us. On behalf of your entire Eugene Auer Family - happy holidays and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!

With gratitude,

Ken Gutmann and the Staff of Eugene Auer Elementary School