December 17, 2021: Let Us In!

Dear CDS Community,

Many of you know that every morning my day begins with time at our various arrival spots. Rain, or shine, cold or warm, our adults are out there ready to welcome our community to school. It is a wonderful way to start the day. Lately, there has been a growing group of students waiting outside of SJH counting down the seconds until they can run into classrooms, greet their teachers, drop their backpacks in a pile, and charge back out to the yard for some play. George and I smile each morning as I hold the students back until the minute hand hits 8:00 exactly.

The other day, the students started chanting “Let us in! Let us in!” I don't know about you, but I was not chanting “Let me in” outside the door of any school I attended. Part of that school experience is what drives me to do this work. I knew as a young person that school could be more and it is a daily joy to work at building a better place for students.

This morning’s winter celebration was a wonderful example of how it can be better. Our students were engaged in the selection, and in second grade even the writing, of the
lyrics. They owned the stage and their peers were respectful and engaged, singing along with them. The learning is authentic and student-centered and that is good for educators and students alike. Thank you to the educators who make CDS a place that students run to in the morning as well as our facilities and technology teams for making the show logistics work so well. All of the adults in our community play a critical part in student learning and I am so appreciative that I get to work with them.

One quick health and safety note: over the break, I want to encourage any individuals who are not fully vaccinated to get their shots and I also request that you read our testing request that was shared in the COOP on Wednesday. We want to make sure that when we come back together we are all looking out for each other by being safe.

I wish you a joyful two weeks and I can’t wait to see you all running back to school in January.

Warmly,
Shelly