

A Message from Superintendent Cardillo

Recently, the Shelter Rock Fifth and Sixth Grade Holiday Concerts concluded with the inspirational song, *Just One Candle*. With the lights dimmed in the auditorium, the choral students turned to one another, symbolically lighting the candle of the person next to them, until everyone's candle was lit. As they were doing this, the chorus began the song, which is dedicated to peace and unity. Below are the words:

If I light just one candle and you light just one, too,
And we pass the flame from wick to wick,
 from us to you and you.
And if we keep it going around the world, you'll see
 the world is glowing with the light
 that came from you and me!
With one candle, just one candle.
Yes, one candle burning bright.
With one candle, just one candle,
 we can fill the world with light.

What a fitting and moving way for young children to conclude this concert as they provided a message of hope, peace, and unity!

One year ago, the children and staff of Sandy Hook Elementary School had their innocent world shattered. Classrooms that had been filled with joy, laughter and learning were turned upside down by the horrific act leading to the killing of twenty beautiful children and six adults who loved them.

One year later, the families of Newtown are encouraging people across the country to perform an act of kindness as a demonstration of the power of something positive to emerge from this tragedy. In addition, a procession of fourteen families will light a candle in memory of the victims of Sandy Hook. Jo-Ann Bacon, who lost her 6 year old daughter in the shooting, said "We hope that some measure of good may be returned to the world."

Today, and each day going forward, we can all symbolically light a candle, just as the fifth and sixth grade children of Shelter Rock did – and sing with them "With one candle, just one candle, we can fill the world with light." Our thoughts and prayers are with the Newtown community today; in that spirit of lighting the world, please make sure to hug your own child, one of many acts of caring and kindness we may perform on a daily basis. We can all dream that by lighting a candle and turning to someone next to us to light theirs, we can all play a role in filling the world with brightness while helping to achieve peace and unity.