

Happy Thanksgiving

As we approach Thanksgiving, this holiday provides all of us with the opportunity to slow down, reflect and spend meaningful time with our families and to cherish each day we are able to share together. In the hectic world that we all live in, we all deserve to have this special time.

For some families, Thanksgiving will be shaped by a particular relative or friend who overcame great adversity and who now inspires that family by their actions. When visiting one of my sons, Casey, who is currently stationed in the Navy in San Diego, we were deeply, deeply moved when attending an event on the day before the San Diego Triathlon Challenge. Over one hundred little children, teenagers and adults were involved in various running and exercise activities. Each of the participants had prosthetic limbs and were being encouraged and led by volunteers who devoted a few hours on this one day to working with the participants. It was truly inspiring to see the many smiling faces of the participants responding so favorably to these volunteers. Watching their parents' emotions during these activities was also quite moving. This special event will likely contribute towards making Thanksgiving an even more meaningful one for those who took part in the Triathlon Challenge and for the volunteers who helped make the day so successful.

For other families, Thanksgiving will be quite different from past years, and probably more personally challenging, as they have experienced extraordinary hardship during the course of this past year. Shelter Rock custodian, Carlos Curuchaga, felt the incredible pain of the loss of his thirteen year old granddaughter, Bryanna, due to a tragic hit and run accident in June. Carlos' family, like many other families who have experienced the pain of losing a loved one, now live life day by day. As his family gathers around the Thanksgiving table this year in prayer, in spite of their loss, they will be able to share beautiful memories of a wonderful girl who will always be with the Curuchaga family in spirit everyday of their lives.

On Thanksgiving, the immediate Cardillo family, along with our extended family, will continue its annual tradition of having Thanksgiving dinner at my sister's house. Four of our six sons will be able to join us this year. As we gather around my sister's dinner table with our soon-to-be-98-year-old father, we will express our gratitude for all that we have, reflect on those who are less fortunate, and remember that family, friends, and loved ones are at the heart of our many blessings.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families!

Charlie Cardillo

Superintendent