

From the Principal's Pen

April 2022

Submitted by: Jennifer McGee, Principal of Atwood Primary School



*"Slow down, you move too fast
You got to make the morning last
Just kicking down the cobblestones
Looking for fun and feeling groovy."*

I love these lyrics from the 1967 song "Feeling Groovy" by Simon and Garfunkel. I was only three when the song was released, but I can remember singing it with my sister and my parents in our station wagon. The words held very little meaning then, but they hold a lot of meaning now.

When my babies were born, time seemed to stand still for a bit. I remember watching for the clock to turn in the dark tunnel of no -sleep- life-with-an-infant- shock. Un-showered days, turned to un-showered nights, and for those early weeks, life ticked on at a snail's pace...and then something happened.

Once I adjusted to life with babies, life moved at warp speed. Each child seemed to change right before my eyes. From sitting up to crawling to walking to running. From smiling to laughing to babbling to talking.

Now that I have grandchildren, I get to witness this miraculous evolution all over again, and it is amazing. Every night, when I facetime, it seems something new is happening....a new tooth, a new trick, a new skill.

And having the chance to work in a school, I get to bear witness to the incredible growth of your children. It's pretty incredible when you hold up one of your children's papers from September and then compare their work to papers you hold up in June. It's elementary school magic.

When the masks came off, I teared up when I saw how many missing teeth there were. And the last time I had seen the second graders little faces, they were kindergarten faces with baby teeth. Now I see their adult teeth have replaced those little chompers. Gosh, the changes all seem to happen so fast.

So, for me, April is the month that sort of represents the rapid fire changes of youth. In the first week of April, we can have a wild snow storm, we can have a muddy, warming center of the

month, but by the end of April....grass shoots through the brown earth, and daffodils begin to make their way to the light. It's like the journey of pre-k to second grade...little non-readers make their way to chapter books.

As we enter this final run of the 2022-23 school year, I hope you and your families are able to stop, center yourselves and catch your breath. I think we have all been through one of the most frightening and uncertain times of our lifetimes. I believe we all need to slow down, re-center ourselves, and find our own true north again. We've been changing, adjusting, and altering how we do things for over two years now. I call it "changing the tire with the car moving." But now, how about we all slow down, think about what we've learned during this pandemic, as we've watched with horror at the recent events in Ukraine, and just try to embrace the here and now, and good health with our families and friends.

I believe we are coming out of the other side of this pandemic stronger than ever. We've definitely learned we can do hard things. YOUR children have been amazing, and even though we may have missed some steps along the way, they are doing JUST FINE.

So let's welcome the spring. Let's have simple celebrations to acknowledge that we are here to tell the story of the past two years...and it's beginning to be in our rearview mirrors. Take long walks. Have a picnic. Read stories. Plant a garden. Get your bikes ready. Go get ice cream. Enjoy the moments.

Thank you for all you have done to work with us, never against us, as we navigated this tricky time in history. We are all better because we locked arms and worked as a team. We, the staff at Atwood, are all so grateful for you and your children.

Wishing you the most chill April ever. Slow down. Savor the moments. You've earned a sunny rest.

*"I got no deeds to do,
No promises to keep
I'm dappled and drowsy and
Ready to sleep.
Let the morning time
Drop all its petals on me
Life I love you,
All is groovy."
-Simon and Garfunkel*

Educationally Yours,

Jenny McGee

Dates to Note: NO SCHOOL: Friday, April 15, 2022 – Sunday, April 24: SPRING BREAK