Dear Northern Nation,

I hope all of our families are enjoying this beautiful weekend. For many, it is a special weekend filled with wonderful family traditions. Yesterday the Diamond’s hosted our annual egg hunt/Spring get together for many of the kids our girls go to school with, are in scouts with, neighborhood friends we haven’t seen during the long winter, and other connections our families have. We had close to 70 (and their parents) kids ages 2-14 all playing together and having a good time while collecting over 1000 candy filled plastic eggs. We like hosting this event because we get a chance to connect with the parents of the kids our girls play and associate with. I know that the group of friends my girls choose, will have a direct impact on how they will mature and grow up. As parents Carol and I do everything we can in trying to raise good girls with the highest moral and ethical behaviors. But as much as we would like to think our efforts are good enough, we know that is just not the case. It is critical for us to know and befriend our girls friends and their parents. Fortunately my girls tend to hang around really great kids who come from fantastic families. It is a nice diverse group of friends that seems to be accepting of others. We can only hope that they continue to choose friends that share the same values we do, but by constantly making the effort of getting to know our girls friends, and their parents, we will have a better understanding of who our girls are spending time with outside our home. This practice will not change for us as the girls get older, however we know that it will be more difficult when their lives get much busier than they are now. Make it a point to talk to your kids about the people they spend time with outside your home. Invite your kids friends over for dinner. Have conversations with them about what their goals are or what they want to do after high school. These types of conversations will aid you in knowing who your kids are hanging out with and if you should be concerned about the time they are spending with them. If your child gives you a hard time about meeting their friends, that should be a red flag for you and you should insist on meeting them. Too many times I see good kids make poor choices because of the peer pressure they might be facing from a group of kids who do not share the same values their parents have. Parenting is the hardest job I have ever had. But by working together with other parents we can all help our kids grow to be good people who will be able to live wonderful adult lives.

Important upcoming events:

* Wednesday, March 30 at 6:30pm in the Media Center at Northern, Brigadier General, Carol Ann Fauson, will be sharing important information on the procedure in applying and getting an appointment into one of our Nation’s Military Academies as well as some junior programs that our kids can enroll in. It has been some time since we had a graduate from Northern earn an appointment into one of the Academies. I have the highest respect for our kids who choose to enlist into military service. We hope that by providing an opportunity to help our families understand the system to enroll into an academy, we will get some kids thinking about these wonderful institutions. I hope to see many WL Northern students and their parents at this event.

* Spring Break - Our Spring Break runs from Monday, April 4 - Friday, April 8 with a return to school on Monday, April 11.

* SAT/PSAT Testing - Tuesday, April 12. Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors will be taking either the SAT (Juniors) or PSAT (Freshmen and Sophomores). Seniors will have a special event scheduled for that day, it is not a day off for the seniors. More information will be coming concerning the timing of the tests and the Senior event.

Yours in Education,

Greg Diamond - Principal

Questions or comments? Email me at GregDiamond@wlcsd.org or call 248-956-5300