



Dear Dondero Community,

Although this time of the year often presents with days that feel shorter than 24 hours, it is also a time of year that forces me to reflect and celebrate the joys of life. Last week, while waiting for my chiropractor, the quote below was posted on the receptionist's desk. It served as a reminder for me to outwardly share my gratitude with those whom I am grateful for. The words by William Arthur Ward stated:

*“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it  
is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”*

So, unlike prior years of simply stating my gratitude for the people in my life in a journal, I am compelled to publicly express thanks.

Looking back over the past four months, Dondero's community would not be nearly as strong without the efforts put forth by all of you. I have a staff that rose above the media and accepted each challenge with grace. Without an ounce of doubt, they collaborated to meet the needs of Dondero students and families. And... they continued to believe in me as their leader. Thank you Dondero Staff!

When I was required to create a PTA board to partner with me to engage families, fundraise to enhance curriculum and be a sounding board for parents, four determined people quickly came to my side and reminded me of my vision for Dondero; to have parents and staff working in partnership to meet the daily needs of Portsmouth students. Thank you PTA Board!

And how can I forget parent volunteers that have spent countless hours of volunteering to assist teachers with copying, cutting laminate, organizing folders, etc.? Or the parents who cover the office during lunch, organize fundraisers, and help with tardy slips, the sign outside and organizing and distributing weekly news. Thank you volunteers!

However, this year, I am mostly grateful for all of your continued support and commitment to *our* children and school community.

I hope that you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Fondly,

Kate Callahan