I am ready for spring! One of the difficult tasks of being superintendent is making decisions about school closures and delays based upon weather forecasts. Weather prediction is just that, a prediction, based upon an inexact science and data that is constantly changing. In the end, based upon the available information, decisions are made to assure the safety of our students and staff. We always build a number of days into our calendar to account for inclement weather or other emergencies, but I think I share the opinion of most, that we are looking forward to the colors of springtime.

I would like to congratulate the cast, crew and staff that worked so hard to bring us “Annie”. I hope that community members took the opportunity to see this wonderful adaptation of the story of orphan Annie and how she is saved by billionaire Oliver Warbucks. The music, the singing, the acting, the sets were all splendid and I found myself singing the songs for days after the show. It takes remarkable commitment to participate in a musical. I am grateful for the direction of Mrs. Campion and Mrs. Bouthillier, who together, help our students prepare for this wonderful performance.

I have two calendar notes to share:

Friday, March 16
Please note that this is an early dismissal day. Faculty and staff will be participating in professional development during the afternoon. Parent conferences have been moved to April.

Monday, April 16
Please note that this is an early dismissal day that will be added to the calendar. The purpose of this half day is to accommodate parent conferences in the afternoon. I am grateful to all of the parents and guardians who will attend these conferences in support of their children.

Finally, I’d like to complete this message with a few comments about school safety. I am not going to wade into the politics of the issue; instead, I simply want to share how committed the district is to the safety of our students and staff. We are a proud rural district. The rural nature of our district means that our community is spread over nearly 150 square miles and while these miles are filled by rolling hills and fertile pasture, they are also filled by good, hardworking, citizens who love their community and their children. We are confident that measures to protect students and staff on campus are sound; in addition, we are confident that any threats expressed and heard will be reported to school and law enforcement officials. Importantly, parents and guardians have an important responsibility and opportunity to engage their children, monitor their online and social activity and communicate about these important issues. Let us not be mistaken, our community is not exempt from the possibility of the unthinkable occurring; however, together, we can prevent the unthinkable with engagement, diligent observation, careful planning, and safety measures.

Paul Berry
Superintendent of Schools