Dear Ponderosa Families,

It has been a busy time of year. Thank you to all the families who attended conferences the week of November 4th-8th. We know how important the partnerships are that we have with our families. It was great to see all of you. We hope you enjoyed this opportunity to talk with your children’s teachers, learn more about the work they are doing, and about the progress your children are making.

Our student council just hosted a wonderful event to honor our Veterans and active military on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. The Veterans and active military had an opportunity to parade through the hallways with student council members while students were cheering them on, waving their flags, and singing patriotic songs. There were many smiles in the hallways and many “high fives” given to our Veterans and active military. After the parade, student council members were able to visit with our Veterans while enjoying some refreshments. A few of our student council members took some time to reflect on this experience and write about what it meant to them to honor our Veterans and active military. Please take a minute to read what they wrote.
A Reflection from Devonte, a Student Council Member:
When I entered the cafeteria, I was amazed. I went and got my food, then went to someone who served in the Navy. He told me the ship he was on when he went out to sea was 2 football fields long (200 yards or 600 feet), I was amazed! I felt so honored that Mr. Childs gave me one of his badges. One day I want to join the military. This was a great experience because I got to learn about most of the branches. For example, how the air force keeps North Korea from invading South Korea.

A Reflection from Oryn, a Student Council Member:
The Veterans celebration was amazing!! There were about 10-15 veterans there! There was this one Veteran who served in the Navy and said he got injured so badly that he was in the hospital for almost a year! There was another guy who my brother called, “Big Buff guy.” (But his real name was Mr. Childs) He worked for 14 different schools including ours as a security guard! The whole thing was fun because we got to meet real Veterans and got to talk to them!

We really appreciate all the hard work Ms. Nordine, Ms. Frank, and the student council put into making this event very special. A BIG thank you to those who are currently serving or who have served our country. We appreciate your service.
At Ponderosa we have completed the health screenings including vision and hearing for the required grades. A letter will be sent home if your child needs a follow-up with a doctor.

Because vision problems can impact learning, this year we will be following up with students with glasses and encouraging them to wear their glasses as needed in class. If you need assistance in obtaining glasses for your child please let us know.

Students have been going outside for recess almost every day. As it continues to get colder, please remember to send students layered in clothing and with jackets each morning. Thank you.

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