



Lincoln Public Schools

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Parry Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Friday, November 10, 2023 4:00PM

Dear Lincoln Public Schools Families,

I hope you are enjoying the first day of a long weekend. This week's message is focused on Veterans Day and the celebrations that took place in both of the schools yesterday.

On Thursday, I was fortunate to be able to attend Veterans Day assemblies for 5th - 8th graders at both the Lincoln School and the Hanscom School. Colonel Taona Enriquez, the Base Commander at Hanscom, was the invited speaker at both assemblies. She opened her speech by talking about the time, when she was a 6th grader, that she first learned about her grandfather's service in the military, and how that sparked her eventual interest to serve herself. She told students that, whether or not they had any interest in joining the military, there are many ways to serve others and to serve our country.

In addition to Colonel Enriquez's address, I was so impressed with the work done by student leaders at the Lincoln School during their assembly. Students opened the assembly by singing the national anthem, they led all of the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance, they discussed the history and importance of Veterans Day, and they honored various veterans.

After Colonel Enriquez's address at the Hanscom School assembly, Principal Ledebuhr recognized students with Citizenship awards and Gold Falcon awards (which Colonel Enriquez and Chief Master Sergeant Saulnier helped to present). Principal Ledebuhr read a short description of each student's accomplishments before presenting the awards, and it was so wonderful to hear about all of the amazing qualities that students are displaying and work that they are doing.

At each of the assemblies, Colonel Enriquez asked students to stand up if they had a service member or veteran in their immediate or extended family. Of course, at the Hanscom School every student stood up. But it was remarkable to see how many students also stood at the Lincoln School. Veterans Day is a singularly important holiday for our country with a long history. Begun initially as an opportunity to recognize the end of World War I, it expanded to become a day when we formally recognize the service of all US veterans.

We owe a never-ending debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women who preserve the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that are the cornerstones of our country's founding. So, this Saturday, I hope you will join me in finding an opportunity to say Thank You to veterans in your own life for all they do for our country.

Parry Graham
Superintendent