



# GROSSMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

From the office of Superintendent Robert Collins



## The Quiz By Charles Schulz "What's Really Important"

Just how important are teachers, classified staff or administrators in your life? I found the following quiz designed by Charles Schulz to be very instructive.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
3. Name ten people who have won a Pulitzer Prize.
4. Name at least a half dozen Academy Award winners for best actress and best actor.
5. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remembers the headliners of yesterday. These were no second rate achievers. They were the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners. **But, here's another quiz. See how you do on this one.**

1. List a few teachers who helped you and made a difference in your life.
2. Name three friends who helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who made you feel appreciated and special.
4. Think of five people who you always enjoyed spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: **The people who make a difference in your life** are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They **are the ones that care.** For students and parents in our District, it is the teachers, classified staff and administrators who care, make that difference, and are remembered.

## The Christmas Orange "A Story of Sharing"



Jake was a resident of an orphan's home, one of ten children supported by what contributions the home could secure on a continuous struggle. It was seldom warm enough in the wintertime, for fuel was expensive. But at Christmastime, there always seemed to be a little more to eat and the home seemed a little warmer, and it was a time for more than the usual enjoyment. But, more than this, there was the orange. At Christmas each child received an orange, the only time of the year that such a rare item was provided – and it was coveted by each child like no other thing they ever possessed. They would often save it for several days, admiring it, feeling it, smelling it, loving it, and contemplating the moment when they would eat it. They treasured the orange so much that often times it would start to dry out and shrivel before they would even eat it.

But this Christmas Day, Jake had offended the rules and authority of the home in some manner, and his punishment was loss of the orange privilege. After a year of waiting for this rare occasion and this most desired of all rewards, it was to be denied. Pleading was to no avail. Although the offense was rather minor, still it was an infraction of such rules that must govern.

Jake spent Christmas empty and alone – it even seemed that the other children didn't want to associate with a person who didn't have an orange.

And then nighttime arrived and this was worst of all. Jake could not sleep. For him, there was no love in the world. Silently he sobbed for the future of mankind; and perhaps even the whole world, but mostly because he didn't have an orange like the other children had.

Then, in the very darkest of night, a soft hand placed on Jake's shoulder startled him momentarily and at the same time an object was shoved into his hands. Just as quickly, the donor disappeared from his room without saying a word.

In his hand was what appeared not to be an orange, but rather one fabricated from nine orange segments – one segment from each child in the orphanage. Nine other oranges that would now have to be eaten on this day rather than being saved and savored for days to come.

Like the children in the orphanage who sacrificed something that was so important to them, **I am reminded daily that every teacher, classified staff member and administrator shares so much of themselves for the children, parents and communities that they serve. It is this spirit of sharing and giving that exemplifies what you do each day.**

On behalf of the entire Grossmont Union High School District, its Board of Education, staff, students, parents and community, we want to recognize and thank you for all that you do and to wish you, your family and loved ones the very best of holidays and new year.