

Friday, May 8, 2020

Even though Teacher Appreciation Week contained much less actual celebration than it deserved...

1. I have secured funds for a visit from the much-loved **Nona's Homemade Ice Cream Truck**. Since we missed out on it this week, let's plan on a sunny and warm Friday afternoon in September. Here's hoping the delayed gratification will make the ice cream taste that much better.

2. More big news out of the history hallway for the second week in a row: Three HHS students (**Ashley Buckeridge, Haley McConnell** and **Elsa Mosholder**) have **qualified for nationals** in the annual **National History Day** competition. Several others also earned special distinctions at the recent state competition. This kind of success is beginning to feel like a rite of spring at HHS but it 's truly exceptional and should not be taken for granted. Achievement of this kind only happens when hardworking and talented students draw inspiration from talented and hardworking teachers.

3. **Thank you so much** for your ongoing efforts to a) convert your Aspen gradebook to the new "credit/no credit" system. I understand how much time all of this is taking, and I cannot say "Thank You" enough. The collective efforts of this faculty to make remote learning work have been phenomenal.

4. Yes, times are incredibly tough right now, but I'll still say the most difficult experience I've had as an educator came two years ago this week, when **Andrew Warhaftig** (HHS Class of 2019) lost his long battle with a rare kidney disease. If you knew and loved Andrew, as so many of us did here at HHS, I hope you will [consider a donation to his memorial fund](#).

5. Even though I'm typing and not speaking to you at the moment, I'm about to get choked up as I comment on the impending departure of **Collin Shattuck**. Three years ago, a rookie principal could not have asked for a better person to move into his old office. Collin's return to Wellesley High School, much closer to home for him, will represent a windfall to his family, especially his young children. We will all miss him greatly but will remain grateful for the many ways he made our school a better place.

Have a great weekend, everybody. I miss you!

Rick Swanson
Principal
Hingham High School