

It is with great sadness that I write this last message to you as Western Area's Executive Director. Looking back through the years, it would be difficult to pick any one event that stands out from the rest because we have done so many exciting things throughout my tenure.

The idea for one of our most enjoyable events, *Bring Your Parent to School Day*, came to me while I was supposed to be paying attention to a lecture during a conference at Penn State. 😊 What started as a crazy idea in 2018 turned into a great experience for everyone involved and a request from our students to "do it again", which we did! For three days in October, parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles attended classes and worked alongside their child building walls, working on cars, welding, cooking, styling hair, and every other trade in our building!

I was also very fortunate to be your Director for the celebration of the school's *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* on June 3, 2022. During the full day of events, it was great to see so many past graduates and former teachers reminiscing of their time spent here and enjoying the pictures of past and present students posted throughout the building. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this day a success. Don't forget to come back when the time capsule is unearthed in 25 years!

There are so many stories that I could share. I feel very lucky to have been the Director of a school with so many outstanding students choosing to come to Western Area every day to learn. A highlight of my day was greeting each student, every morning and afternoon, as the buses arrived and they entered the school. Always polite and eager to attend their classes, our students never failed to say hello as they passed by me. As I've stated during our monthly parent meetings, Western Area students are the best and I will truly miss them!

I could go on and on, but I guess it's time to say goodbye. My last day in the building will be on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to each and every one of you for the great memories. I sincerely wish Western Area a very successful start of the new school year.