

# ***SUPERINTENDENT*** **NEWSLETTER**

January 27, 2023

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Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

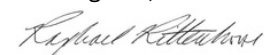
My dad was the youngest of three brothers and grew up during challenging times. Both of his parents contracted tuberculosis when he was young and were not able to earn much income during that time. They were required to undergo residential treatment in the sanatoriums that were built for that purpose. My uncle Jerry, the eldest brother, assumed much of the burden for caring for two younger brothers. When it became evident the resources would not stretch to feed and clothe everyone, Jerry joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) where he was able to get his needs met and send back support to his family. Hank, the middle brother, joined Jerry at the CCC camp when he came of age so that my dad was able to benefit more from what limited resources his parents could muster throughout their long recovery process.

My dad's memory of those times before Jerry and Hank left for CCC camp always brought the recollections of how his older brothers looked out for him and tried to make his life better in any small ways they could. My dad told the story of how he would ask Jerry to take him on the handlebars of his bike down to a park where they could ride over a "belly flop" bump that would make my dad laugh out loud. His toddler phrase to get Jerry to take him there was "Jerry go bump!" My dad recalled that Jerry never turned down a request to "Jerry go bump!" no matter how tired or busy he was. Hank would borrow music records from his friends and play them for my dad. When Jerry became age eligible, he joined the Navy and was in the Pacific Fleet during World War II. My dad remembers seeing Jerry returning home from war on foot from the bus station. When Jerry saw my dad perched on the front doorstep, he cut a beeline through the neighbor's cornfield and wrapped him up in a big bearhug, happy to see his little brother and return home safely.

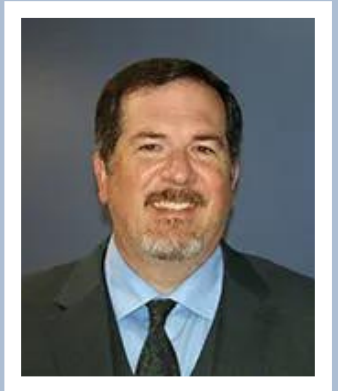
As I grew up, the bond between my dad and my uncles was evident, and the three families gathered on a frequent basis. Hank's home was the weekly Sunday gathering place and we would share a meal and stories together. The hard times growing up had forged a deeper relationship and sense of connection. Hank, who had made a career working with the railroad, made sure his nieces and nephews got the chance to ride on the train engines with him, always proud to show us off to his working buddies along the route.

My reason for sharing this story is to highlight the importance of relationships and how they make us stronger and more resilient to life's challenges. I am sure that the lives of my sisters and brothers were better off due to the influence and support of my uncles. They made sure my dad survived and thrived to adulthood after a prolonged period of struggle and hardship. In our school and community, our lives intertwine, and we get many opportunities to share in the struggles and the rewards of life. The bonds we share extend beyond the boundaries of our own families and include those folks we share the path with today. Together we can make the difference for many like my dad and can change the trajectory and future of kids and families who just need that extra little bit of support on their way to a better life.

Best regards,



Raphael Rittenhouse/GLCS Superintendent



## Updates

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** will be held on Thursday, February 2nd and Friday, February 3rd.

**1/2 Days** on Thursday, February 2nd and Friday, February 3rd.

**GL Performing Arts Company** will be performing *Mythically Mythical Myths* by Jon Jory February 10th at 7 PM and February 11th and February 12th at 2 PM at the GL Center for the Fine Arts.

**Piano Concert** is February 17th at 7 PM at the GL Center for the Fine Arts.



[www.gulllakecs.org](http://www.gulllakecs.org)