

Feb 3 Wong's for Chinese New Year

Feb 4 Super Bowl Party
@ Foursquare Church

Feb 11 Healthy Heart Challenge
@ Foursquare Church

Feb 13 Valentine's Day Party

Feb 18 Play in the Snow Day

Feb 21-25 President's Recess
(No School)

Recycle Unwanted
Cell Phones, Print Cartridges
& Digital Cameras
at The Blitz

All proceeds benefit the
Dansville Afterschool Programs

THINK RECYCLE



Weather permitting, on Friday the 18th, we will be having another Play in the Snow Day.

You may drop off sleds or warm clothing at program the day before.



Jim's Thoughts

My uncle Ivan is the transportation director at Nunda school. He recently attended a meeting about school security and all the essential policies and such needed to protect our kids. We were talking about it this week and he said something I think is very insightful. He said that the focus now is to protect kids from other kids. His view is that many students aren't understanding the concept of forgiveness. When something happens to kids, they retaliate, they fight back, they want to hurt those who hurt them. And for years parents have been telling their kids to fight back. I remember my dad saying it to me.

So it made me think. Are kids defending themselves? Or creating wars out of nothing? How bad do you need to be hurt before you fight back? And I also understand that bullying is serious and psychologically damaging...especially to kids. But from what I've personally witnessed, kids are choosing to retaliate over insignificant things that will be forgotten in an hour or so.

I agree that kids don't truly understand forgiveness. It's a hard thing to do. We try to teach our kids to say "I'm sorry" and hope they mean it. But almost every time I've seen it done (or done it myself), it seems that the injured party is neglected. We ask the injured person... "Are you okay now?" And that seems to be where it's left. But we need to deal with the inner process. We need to help the injured person let it go and move on....to forgive.

Oh I know-- that word has been used for religious purposes for so long that it has a negative connotation to it for most people. But it's an important action that needs to be used more in our everyday relationships. If kids could learn to forgive the little things, they would have an easier time getting along with others. Maybe they could even learn to forgive bigger hurts. All I know is that when we have to protect our kids from their friends and peers, something is very wrong. Kids killing kids is serious. We have to try harder than security guards, door locking and metal detectors. The real issue is inside. And don't mistake forgiveness for weakness. Sometimes we teach our kids to be stronger by letting go.

"Any man can seek revenge; it take s king or a prince to grant a pardon." -Arthur J. Rehrat

