

LESSONS LEARNED?

The November Election of 2008 is now thankfully behind us. I don't know about you, but I was utterly sick of all of the political infomercials and trying to determine my choice on Election Day that I am glad to be moving on. This election was an excellent teaching and learning tool for classroom and dinner table discussions alike. I am left wondering just what lessons were actually learned during this entire process by our younger generation.

I am a child of the 50's and 60's. I remember pretty well an election of historic proportions in 1960. How could the country conceivably elect John F. Kennedy at his youthful age to the highest position of leadership in the United States? It was unconceivable at that time. Then, in addition to his youth, there was the whole other issue of him being a Roman Catholic. Unthinkable, at least in 1960.

Now, it's time to jump forward to the Election of 2008, an election that we have been subjected to for the past two years. Our country has seen a lot of changes since 1960, some good and others not so good. We have been involved in a number of wars and conflicts around the globe. We have struggled through the decade of the Civil Rights movement. We have seen and survived the ups and downs of our economy over this period of time. I wonder what our younger generation is learning and making of all of these events, both past and present.

We talk about change, a new change, with people working together for the greater good of all regardless of race, religion, and political party. That sounds really good to me. However, talk is always cheaper than real action. Will our younger generation remind us of lessons learned and the promises of legislators from all political parties that this is about all of us, not just a few of us. So, how much have we really learned and grown?

On November 4th, history was made with the election of Senator Barack Obama to the Presidency, our first minority President. Historians have yet to even think about what the legacy of his presidency will be. Nonetheless, we are all seeing history unfold before our very eyes. While I wish anyone who achieves the Office of the Presidency the best of luck and wisdom, it takes all of us working together to get where we want to be. Our younger generation looks to those before them. They look at the successes and failures as recorded in history. What have we learned? What changes will the younger generation bring to the table? Time will tell us how well the lessons of the past were learned as we prepare to embark on a new presidency. I, for one, would hope that we have grown as a nation to the point where we are less concerned about the color of someone's skin or whether the candidate is a male or female, and that we make our choices based upon who we believe to be the most qualified candidate. Again, only time will tell us all just how much we have learned and how well we have learned to work together.

Congratulations to our teachers and students who used this opportunity to encourage our young folks to soak up this information and actively participate in history in the making.

It would appear that, at least for the time being, our economy is going to continue to provide us with ample current events material.

THANK YOU VETERANS!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our veterans and other community organizations for your participation in this year's Veterans' Day programs in our schools. You are always so good to help us in any way, and we very much appreciate your continued support of our way of life. Your selflessness to continue in supporting our schools and communities is something that does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your service---past, present, and future.

As always, if you have any questions about this article, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586. Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent