

Dear Glencoe Community,

Many years ago, I was returning from a run and felt a slight pain in my outer phalange, more commonly referred to as the pinkie toe. This was a week before our conference cross-country meet and I recall being somewhat annoyed but relatively unconcerned about the long-term effects of the discomfort. Surely I would be able to "run through" such a minor thing. However, the next day the pain was not only still there, it was worse. The day after that, it had become so uncomfortable I could not run at all. This continued for two more days. I thought, "How could something so small and seemingly benign be so impactful?"

Miraculously, a day before the meet the pain mysteriously subsided and I was able to compete. I was never so thankful for such a "little" part of my life to function properly.

I am reminded of this whenever the Thanksgiving holiday rolls around. Not only I am thankful for my friends, family, and health, I am also grateful for all of those "minor" aspects of my life that I seemingly take for granted on a daily basis: the warmth of the sun on a cold winter day; the smell of freshly baked bread; the ready access to clean water. I am also cognizant of those often forgotten people who make my life run smoothly: the workers who maintain our parks; the farmers who provide food; the people who work to service garbage and recycling. My charge in the holiday season is to pass on my gratitude to those of whom I often forget, but make my "pinkie toe" function properly.

I am also grateful to the Glencoe community for being so welcoming during my stint here. Students, parents, and staff have all gone out of their way to make me feel at home. I retired after 32 years in education and have been around many schools. I can speak to the fact that you have a special, caring community here that occurs in very few places. I can see the joy on the faces of the students and I can feel it in the pride the staff members express when they talk of the school. I am thankful I have been able to experience that, even if it's for a short time.

Here's wishing a great Thanksgiving holiday to you and your family.

Best,  
Jim Weeks  
Glencoe Interim Principal