Chelsea Public School
Opening Day Assembly
August 27, 2014

Mark A. Blount, Principal

My message to students this school year centers around our motto….Learning, Community, and Respect. My message this year is aimed at all of us in making a difference as great learners, setting high standards for a positive community, and to have wonderful and respectful personal habits.

I am reminded of "The Story of the Starfish" originally written by Loren Eisley.

"The old man awoke just before sunrise, as he often did, to walk by the ocean's edge and greet the new day. As he moved through the morning dawn, he focused on a faint, far away motion.

He saw a young man, bending and reaching and flailing arms, dancing on the beach, no doubt in celebration of the perfect day soon to begin. As he approached, he realized that the youth was not dancing to the bay, but rather bending to sift through the debris left by the night's tide, stopping now and then to pick up starfish and then standing, to heave it back into the sea.

The old man asked the youth the purpose of the effort. "The tide has washed the starfish onto the beach and they cannot return to the sea by themselves" the young man replied. "When the sun rises, they will die unless I throw them back into the sea."

As the youth explained, the old man surveyed the vast expanse of beach, stretching in both directions beyond eyesight. Starfish littered the shore in numbers beyond calculation.

The hopelessness of the youth's plan became clear and the old man countered, "But there are more starfish on this beach than you can ever save before the sun is up. Surely you cannot expect to make a difference."

The young man paused briefly to consider my words, bent to pick up a starfish and threw it as far as possible. Turning to the man, he said, "I made a difference to that one."

Like the starfish you can make a difference by:

1. staying positive and focused both in the classroom and on the field
2. inviting new friends you meet at school to your house this year.
3. being respectful to your parents, teachers, staff, and guests.
4. studying with a friend; to work on a project with a friend; to trade good books to read with a friend.

5. following classroom and school rules to maintain a positive learning community for all.
6. being a friend to someone who needs a friend.
7. doing your best each and every day.
8. always having room in your group for one more friend.
9. challenging yourself to try something new.
10. calling a friend who has been absent to give a homework assignment.
11. making friends with people who will accept you and like you for who you are and who will not try to be like them.

I will close our opening day assembly with an inspirational quote about life from Mark Twain:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Best wishes students for a wonderful school year!