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President's Message...

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President's Message...

by Andy Schoenborn, MRA President

According to dictionary.com, the first two definitions of “discovery” are:

1. the act or process of seeing, finding, or gaining knowledge of something previously unknown, or an instance of this; and
2. something found, found out, noticed, or realized.



AndySchoenborn

Discovering, then, is an “act or process” of seeing, finding, gaining, noticing, or realizing.

We are teachers.
We are not surprised.

We chose a lifetime committed to discovery in our field for the benefit of learning and of sharing our learning.

But, how do *we* learn? How did *you* learn? Who are the teachers that led *you* into teaching? What is the “glue” that makes those memories stick?

Maya Angelou offered some insight and is often attributed with saying, *“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”*

Feeling and emotion are teachers that connect learners with their learning in powerful ways. As teachers, we experience (and share) the full spectrum of emotions before, during, and after teaching.

What leads to discovery? What leads to growth? What leads to fulfillment?

Many times, while in these spaces, you may find that emotion is joy.

According to dictionary.com, the first two definitions of “joy” are:

1. the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; keen pleasure; elation; and
2. a source or cause of keen pleasure or delight; something or someone greatly valued or appreciated.

Learning is fun. Joyful classrooms contain communities that experience great delight and substance. Discovery-filled classrooms create the conditions for students and teachers to join in exceptionally good or satisfying learning. When combined, discovering the joy of learning, teaching, bonding, and community causes keen pleasure or delight. Together discovering joy brings everyone closer and is greatly valued and appreciated.

In discovering joy teachers create places where young, vibrant minds can learn in classrooms where they see themselves in the pages and on the covers of books. Places where students are seen and heard as their authentic selves through the words they write and the voices bravely share. Places where teachers, administrators, coaches, librarians, authors, and illustrators are trusted with the agency they need to bring their genuine selves to students and learning.

Joyful places where relationships create the catalyst for inquiry; where togetherness is found in sharing a love for literacy; and where classroom communities are free to express themselves without blame or shame.

It is in these places, much like your own classrooms, where we encounter literacy in bloom. Where you accept students as they are and encourage them to open books to read new-found perspectives or to share their own perspectives in what they write.

In the spirit of a beloved community and the opportunity, we are grateful for your contributions to the profession—both small and significant—of our volunteers, librarians, authors, speakers, coaches, keynotes, and, most importantly, all of you.

We encourage you to make space for authentic and genuine joy in your classroom as often as possible.

Yours in literacy,

Andy Schoenborn
MRA President



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