



North American International School

Where every moment is an opportunity to shine

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NAIS Director Diaries

Diary entry #2: A&A

A&A – acknowledge and appreciate

The saying, “You don’t know what you’ve got until its gone”, is more relevant now than it has ever been. Why do we often take for granted the very things that deserve our gratitude the most? We do this with both people and possessions. The problem is many people do not realize this until the situation has come and passed. We take things for granted on a daily basis, always with the assumption that whenever we need something, it will be there.

I want to acknowledge and appreciate; I believe they are connected.

During this trying time, we acknowledge and appreciate those on the frontline – doctors, nurses, grocery clerks, security, and many others, but that almost feels too far from home to be felt.

I acknowledge and appreciate my wife, an amazing woman, an amazing mother to my children. I want to acknowledge and appreciate my family for putting up with me, I’m restless at the best of times, now that I’m confined to my house, I’m like a caged animal. I want to acknowledge and appreciate the time I’ve been afforded to spend with my family, you take for granted the little moments, the little memories.

There are many things we fail to realize the true value of until they are missing from our lives. I want to acknowledge and appreciate, Shimiso, my domestic worker, wow I didn’t realize the job she did on a daily basis. The amount of beds made, floors swept, dishes washed, oh yes, I think the saying I don’t know what I had until it was gone applies here.

Enjoy the little things in life because someday you will realize they were big things. Doing puzzles, reading books, jumping on trampolines, building sand castles Little things?

I want to acknowledge and appreciate my staff at NAIS – wow what an amazing group. The work you are doing, the dedication to your job but more, the dedication to your children, is amazing. I certainly acknowledge and appreciate every single one of you.

People say you don’t know what you’ve got until its gone. Truth is, you knew what you had, you just never thought you’d lose it. This is for my NAIS parents, I know you all knew the excellent job the teachers were doing, and I know you always appreciated them but I don’t think you ever thought you would be without them.

NAIS parents, I want to appreciate and acknowledge you, all of sudden you are on the frontline, the teaching frontline. You are now required to raise a family, do a job, look after a house and teach a child – unbelievable task, and yet you do it, you do it with love and passion that I never knew you had. Yes, I acknowledge and appreciate all of you.

Appreciate what you have before it becomes what you had. Appreciate all the things you have in life because you never know when that time will end. Clear the clutter inside your mind and realize what you have right now. Don't wait until you've lost it to finally see how much you took it for granted. Realize how fortunate you are, how things could always be worse. I realize that I complain about the little things, when I should be singing about the blessings.

Don't take things for granted because they might not be there tomorrow. People constantly want something more, something new, but sometimes the most valuable things are what have been with us at all times. Happiness will never come to those who fail to appreciate what they have already. Appreciate your loved ones, appreciate life, appreciate friendship, appreciate dedicated teachers, appreciate food, appreciate time.

Just like you don't know what you have until its gone, you don't know what you've been missing until it arrives.

This time will end, that we know, and everything that we have been missing will arrive, question is will we now appreciate what we have before its gone!

Grant Tate
NAIS Director