

Good morning. Welcome to the new academic year. Welcome to the returning and exemplary Lincoln Sudbury teachers and staff. Welcome, if you are joining the school this year.

Recently, I was at a dinner with my wife and her high school friends. I was struck by what they were talking about. They, of course, talked about one another and the memorable times they shared together at the high school many years ago. But when they were talking about the school, they mostly talked about teachers and staff – teachers who made them think, teachers who gave them new insight, teachers and staff who cared for them and their learning. If all of us think back to our school days, what we remember most are our friendships and our teachers. And you here are those teachers.

I was searching for an analogy. If a school were a movie, teachers are its stars. If it is a particularly well-directed movie, we might remember the director, just as one might remember a particularly good superintendent or a principal. Photography, music, sets, costumes, finances and so on define and actually make the movie possible, just as the staff and administration provide vital support to the school, students and teachers. The producers, who husband the resources, and who none of us remember, and rightly so, are like me and rest of the school committee members, who serve at the pleasure of the citizens.

But as analogies go, they serve a purpose but do not quite capture the essence. Unlike a movie star's relationship with the audience, a teacher interacts daily and closely with the minds and hearts of students. A teacher guides. A teacher challenges. A teacher listens. A teacher helps. A teacher's role is more powerful, more meaningful, and more influential in a student's life.

So, please go and be the star that your students remember when they meet several years from now. Rest of us will be performing our respective supportive roles to make you shine.

Thank you.

Radha Gargeya, 9/2/14