

Principal Shares Touching Message with Students



Arbury sends a letter to Southwood Elementary fifth grade students as they transition into middle school

Susan Arbury

Dear, Dear Southwood Fifth Grade Students:

Today marks a milestone in your lives. A milestone is a very important place in your life's journey, when you stop to think and reflect on what has happened so far, what part you played in your success, and what you would like to have happen in the next part of your journey.

So often, we love to tell children that it is important to "get ready" for something in the future. Today I am going to say something a little different. I am going to tell you that, in order to "get ready" for some future event, you must give your full attention to the moment you are in now.

It is never too soon to realize the power you have to create your own future. That



may not seem true to your right at this time. You have to follow directions and rules, the schedules of your parents, activities, friends, and school, listen to advice from all sorts of places, and then maybe you get to do something you want to do. With so much coming at you from the outside, you may not often realize that inside each of you is a little voice that can guide you through the maze of life. This voice will, if you let it, help you make the choices that will lead to your success.

How do you know you are listening to the right voice? That's the easy part. This may seem silly, but if the voice is giving you positive advice in any situation, that's it! If the voice tells you to do something

negative, that's NOT it! The voice would tell you to say hello to the new kid at school. The voice would not tell you to start a rumor about someone. Not this voice! The voice would tell you to do your homework even if it's hard. The voice would not tell you to cheat on a test. The voice will tell you to keep trying, no matter what, because it's effort that counts. The voice would not let you give up, if you listen to it.

**“Now” is when we
always have a choice
that will change what we
call “tomorrow.”**

Each time you listen to that positive inner voice, you are building your future. The future does not arrive in a neat little package all ready to go. Nope, Sorry! If you are waiting for your future to begin, you will be waiting a long time. In fact, have you ever noticed that “tomorrow” never comes? And that you can't return to yesterday? It is always “now.” “Now” is when we always have a choice that will change what we call “tomorrow.” Each time you make a choice, you are choosing the quality of your future. No one can choose that but you. You have what you need to make great choices. Sometimes that won't be easy, but you have also learned to hang in there and see things through.

So, listen to that little voice that is inside of you each moment. Live in the “Now.”

“This is our time, yours and mine.

You have important discoveries to make.
Now is the time to make them.

You have important talents to develop.
Now is the time to develop them.

You have important gifts to give to the
world. Now is the time to give them”

-Quote from the book,
One Compendium,
Incorporated 2009



Susan was an exemplary principal in the Enumlaw School District. Her visionary leadership style led to the development of several innovative programs including Magic Strings and the Birth to Five Center.