



A new day is an opportunity to make a new connection!

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*"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."*

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the thing that ever has."***

***- Margaret Mead***

## **Fostering a Strong Community in a Virtual Classroom by Leah Henry**

**District Highlights** This year we didn't get too much snow which was just fine to me. It was somewhat depressing to see snow on the ground this morning. I am not a huge fan of

winter or snow. But I do appreciate the beauty and the sheer power of snow. Last week I experienced what felt like a snowball growing over the days as we engaged in small group discussions to plan the end of the school year. We have had to be nimble to react to the school closure while being creative about how we will continue our regular end of year activities and celebrations. The brainstorming of this week grew from one team to the next just like a snowball rolling down a hill. By the end of the week some things were decided, some were in motion, and some remained as a brainstorm. The group discussions represented the same beauty and power that snow can have. I remain impressed and grateful for your collaboration each and every day. Over the next few weeks we will build a new way to end a school year. We will continue to learn a lot as we do that. Hopefully we will be able to compare our efforts to our growing gardens and not a coming snow storm. I'm all done with snow. Bring on the sunshine!

## **Professional Development Corner! This week we have a TED Talks Daily! If**

**TED  
TALKS  
DAILY**

you're feeling anxious or fearful during the coronavirus pandemic, you're not alone. Offering hope and understanding, author Elizabeth Gilbert reflects on how to stay present, accept grief when it comes and trust in the strength of the human spirit. "Resilience is our shared genetic inheritance," she says. Check out the [#BrightFuture archives](#) for other podcast and book recommendations.

Do you have a resource, quote, or article to share? District committees can also communicate news via this newsletter. Just email me at [tbaird@hebron.k12.ct.us](mailto:tbaird@hebron.k12.ct.us). Have a great week!