

Kite Festival Director's Message

Wow 2008 is here! As I write this message I am amazed that we are into a new year and the Kite Festival once again draws close. It seems that the older I get the faster time flies. I am sure it is that way for everyone but it seems that there are so many distractions in life that it is hard to just relax, kick back and take the time to read a good book. I try to make a habit of reading daily but as I said there are always things to get in my way and it makes me reflect on the reason the Kite Festival was started. Its sole purpose is to reward the kids that have taken the opportunity to read. I don't know how this will affect or influence these children in the years to come. Maybe it will give some of them the inspiration that they need to become great leaders. Maybe they will have the desire to teach others. Maybe they will just learn to take the time to enjoy reading. There is no down side to reading!

This will be my last year as director of the Kite Festival. I am very grateful for the support and hard work of all my fellow committee members and volunteers who make this great event happen. Stella Iverson is the real director behind the scenes and does not receive the credit she deserves. It is due to her organizational skills and commitment to this program and festival that makes it such a success. I am especially grateful for the sponsors that so graciously donate money and sponsor events each year. Last year we were able to give a \$35,000 check to the Washington County School District. This is a win-win scenario when we invest in our children, who will be our future here in Washington County. I would finally like to personally thank Don Lyman and Royce Jones, the founders of the Kite Festival. Without their hard work and persistence this event would not exist. They have left a legacy that myself and future directors can be proud of and we all see the benefits that it has provided.

Parents, encourage your children to read. Kids, there is truly no substitute for imagination. Reading can stimulate that imagination. It is imagination that we owe all our technology and marvels of this modern world to.

Take care and continue reading,

Joe McKeehan