



Holiday Greetings

The holiday season can be a hectic time in the best of years. I am willing to bet that none of us have experienced a holiday season quite like this one before. Many of us will experience a hiatus from our normal holiday traditions. Perhaps this pause can serve as a time to reflect on the meaning of those traditions and the importance of the values behind them. Let us be mindful as we struggle to navigate this season that our students are struggling as well. Thank you for the care and commitment that you offer to them. In many cases the students we serve have been underserved elsewhere. We do important work and we do it well.

Many holiday celebrations around the world use light as a symbol of hope in darkness. It seems to be a deeply held universal symbol. It takes the form of the Hanukkah Menorah, the lights of the Christmas tree, the lantern festival in China, the Kinara of Kwanzaa, the Hindu festival of Diwali and the yule log of the winter solstice to name just a few.

This new year holds many promises. A vaccine, falling numbers of positive cases, and a return to life with a semblance of normalcy are among the things we are hopeful for. The night is always darkest right before dawn, and we must prepare for some dark nights ahead this winter before the promise of Spring. Let us be inspired by these traditions as we wait for brighter days ahead.

What this means in our professional lives is a continuation of safety precautions, social distancing and at least a degree of remote instruction. It means entering a contract negotiation where we seek to be recognized for the good work that we do under the cloud of a worsening financial reality brought on by the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. It means pushing through the uncertainty and weariness that so many of us feel with the faith that we will persevere and end up where we need to be.

However you choose to celebrate this year, may you find comfort in the knowledge that the work that you do matters, and that despite the craziness of this past year, you have still managed to do it well. I wish you a restful break and a new year where promises are fulfilled.

In solidarity,

Joal Bova
President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association