

We Miss You!

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by Joe Krause, Superintendent & Principal

As I helped a bunch of folks fold American flags behind the Legion following the parade, I felt fortunate to have spent the last six months living in Terry, Montana. The town, board of education, and school have made me feel like part of the community.

Living in a small town has the potential to be a significant asset. Terry has healthcare available via the hospital and clinic. We have a fully stocked grocery store which strategically places delicious snacks near the water. The chip placement has probably added to my personal assets due to my unfortunate habit of loading the counter with goodies while waiting for my 5-gallon jug to fill. 4 Corners Convenience Store and the Hog & Jog are significant assets to many people who stop for food but stay for coffee and conversation. The churches in town provide an asset for many who stop by for spiritual food and stay for the potluck fellowships. I've found the Legion and BD Bar to be major assets to many of us who live in the community. Terry reminds me a little of the TV show, Cheers: *"Making your way in the world today takes everything you got. Taking a break from all your worries it sure would help a lot. Wouldn't you like to get away? Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came."* Cheers was an asset in the lives of those fictional characters.

Terry School's staff members are assets in the lives of their students. Our students are trying to make their way in the world and our staff works hard to support them every step along the way. Terry School wants to work together with the community and engage in the shared responsibility for preparing Terry's children and youth for the future. Do you know what a luxury it is to be able to call on Keifer or Tim to help out at the school and know that they both care? For our students to know that the local Sheriff is in their corner is an asset for which Terry School and the community should be grateful.

The bottom line is that we are all assets for each other, our businesses, and our students. Research has shown that students do better in school when they have connections with caring adults. The more connections the better. Students who are involved in school activities, church youth groups, after school jobs, or just love hanging out with their families all have the opportunity for people to miss them when they're not involved. We all want that feeling. We all want to have folks say, "Where were you? We missed you!" Our school staff can provide that for students, and the Prairie County community provides that for each other.