

Thanksgiving Day Patriots' Day



Rochester, New York
November, 29, 1918

PROGRAM

SONG *The Star Spangled Banner* - - - - School

To the Boys and Girls of our Public Schools:—

This is the most significant Thanksgiving season that we have ever been called upon to observe.

Our custom of remembering the needy, of gathering in our respective schools to reflect upon the blessings which Almighty God has given, and to give special consideration to those great characters in our history who have done so much to make this land of freedom what it is, should by all means be continued. It is one way of expressing our gratitude, of understanding how much the heritage that is ours has cost and of inspiring us to keep alive the great principles of freedom for which America has stood through the years.

For some years we have also observed in our school what we have come to know as Patriots' Day. The closing of our schools this year at the time when this day would regularly have been observed makes it necessary either for us to defer this special observance or to hold it jointly with some other. It has seemed in every way particularly fitting that we should this year unite our Thanksgiving and Patriots' Day exercises and observe these two most significant occasions on Friday, November 29th. I believe that the more carefully we think of the really great thing for which we all feel special gratitude this year and the one great purpose that is in our minds and hearts when we talk about patriotism, the more we shall realize how peculiarly appropriate it is at this time to combine these two exercises.

What hopes are built upon you, the boys and girls who are today in the schools of this country! You are to come after us and you are to "live in the world which our sins have blighted or which our love of right has redeemed." Only yesterday we were asking whether the love of right and freedom still burned within us as strongly as it did within our forefathers. They held liberty and the rights of mankind dearer than life itself that America might be safe for the children who came after them. Now that the days of test have come, would we break faith with our forefathers or would we with life and all that life holds dear safeguard you for the days that are ahead! What gratitude and thanksgiving to God ought to come from your hearts as you think of the noble answer made by our soldiers fighting side by side with the Allies for the victory which is ours!

Boys and girls, you will do well to think of that victory as a challenge to you to show the same high qualities of patriotism

through courage, industry, self-control, justice toward all, sympathy for the weak and oppressed and loyalty in defending all the principles for which these men have died. The coming of peace makes it possible to meet this challenge and live lives of service to your fellows.

We shall all do well to keep ever in our minds the words of one who lies on the field of France, and who just before his death closed one of the most beautiful of poems with these words:

"If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders field."

Sincerely,

HERBERT S. WEET,
Superintendent of Schools.

SONG *Columbia the Gem of the Ocean* - - - School

REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY THANKFUL
THIS YEAR—1918

1. For Peace.

Do you know which other countries are thankful, because of this same Peace?

2. For Victory and what it means.

Do you know what it means to make the world "Safe for Democracy?"

3. For our country which was founded on Liberty and gives education and opportunity to all.

Do you know what opportunities free countries offer?

Do you know how our country has helped give these opportunities to other countries?

4. For our soldiers who have fought so bravely to help win this Victory.

Do you know the sacrifices that a soldier must make?

5. For the return of so many of our soldiers.

Do you know how our losses compare with the losses of our Allies?

6. For our citizens—men, women and children—who have so gladly worked and sacrificed to help bring about peace.

Do you know what these men, women and children have done?

7. For food and clothing, home and health.

Do you know whether the people in all countries have such blessings? In Belgium? In France? In Russia?



LIBERTY BELL OF 1776

SONG *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* - - - - School

HOW THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF ROCHESTER HAVE HELPED BRING ABOUT PEACE

1. They have bought Liberty Bonds to the value of \$13,665. One \$100 bond feeds a soldier for eight months. Enough bonds have been bought to feed 1,040 soldiers until Christmas.
2. They have bought 52,051 Thrift Stamps—Value \$13,012.75. A motor truck costs \$2,000. They have bought enough Thrift Stamps to buy one, two, three, four, five, six trucks!
3. They have worked for the Red Cross. They have knitted 1,516 sweaters, mufflers and socks. The girls have made 16,309 articles, including surgical dressings and garments.
4. They have made gardens. Of these 2,732 were home gardens, 7 were school gardens and 4 were community gardens.

HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO SHOW OUR THANKFULNESS AND PATRIOTISM?

(Pupils to suggest ways.)

SALUTE TO THE FLAG BY THE SCHOOL

I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Name

School..... Grade.....