

## From the Principal's Desk

WE DID IT!

"The Philadelphia Phillies are the 2008 World Series Champions!" Those are words that I have been waiting to hear since I was nine years old, sitting on my sofa with my grandmother watching Tug McGraw strike out Willie Wilson. When that moment occurred on October 29<sup>th</sup>, I couldn't help but look at Jack and Carly to see the look in their eyes of pure excitement. I couldn't help but think back to when I was only a year older than Carly is and how great it was to share that experience with my grandmother. I hope it will be a moment they never forget.

Now that the World Series is over and that magical run that the Phillies made through the months of September and October is completed, I can catch up on some sleep. I can also take some time to analyze why they were so successful. First of all, they had someone take into consideration that there were some minor changes that needed to be made to make the team more successful than the previous year. I am sure not everyone was happy that people were traded and new players were added to the team, but eventually they meshed. Next, they had to have each person concentrate on their responsibility and do it to the best of his ability. If one person did not do his job, then other people worked harder to pick him up. When things were difficult during the season, they got together and worked it out. Finally, they did what no other team in baseball did, they put all of their individual differences aside and did what was best for the team.

I know many of our students watched throughout the playoffs and saw first-hand what happens when you work hard. Nobody gave the Phillies anything, they worked for it. Nobody gave them a chance to play a game over when they lost, they just had to work harder the next time to be successful. Most importantly, nobody on the team made excuses. If one player didn't do his job, he spoke up. The other aspect of that is that no player blamed another player for a loss. This is the type of thinking that we need to continue to strive to achieve with our students at school. We need to let them know that it is fine to not succeed the first time. We need to send the message that you need to work harder the next time if you want to be successful. Most importantly, we need to continue to teach them how important it is to take responsibility for their own actions. It is easy to point a finger and blame a teacher or principal or friend or parent because he/she didn't do well on a test. The tough part is to stand up and say, I didn't do my part.

Once again, the Phillies are World Champions! I personally want to thank them for the joy they provided this season, for showing everyone the value of hard work and most importantly, for showing us what it means to be responsible and part of a team. So until the next time I can stand up for the seventh inning stretch, I am going to take a nice long nap!!!!

