

*Principal's Message for February 2012*

*Have you ever thought about how connected our world has become?* When schools were first established in our country we were a farming society. As our world began to change with the advancement of industry schools needed to adapt to prepare their students to enter the industrial age. The information age was next with the invention of the computer, and now we are entering what is considered the "shift" age where change is rapid and communication occurs globally. These rapid changes require flexible thinking on the part of parents, students, and educators.

At Norge we are working to wisely use technology as a support for student engagement and learning. We have skyped with a local weatherman, and we are able to bring video experiences from the Great Wall of China and other locations worldwide into our classrooms to support grade level curriculum. Students use I-Pod applications to reinforce what they are learning in the classroom, and conduct research to produce science and social studies products. We have worked to provide parents links to many resources via our school web page in an effort to further support learning. We hope you will explore these resources with your children from home or from the public library. Together we can prepare children for the future.

**COURAGE**

The character education word for the month of February is courage. Courage is doing what needs to be done even when it is really scary. Courage is going ahead even when you feel like giving up and quitting. It is doing what you know is right. Courage is a quality of the heart.