

Good afternoon, Lebanon School District! Welcome, boys and girls from our five elementary schools, Henry Houck, Harding, Southeast, Southwest and Northwest! Welcome, Lebanon Middle School, and Welcome to all of our students from Lebanon High School. We are making history this afternoon, as this is the first time in many, many years, and it may even be the first time in history, that all students and staff have come together at Alumni Stadium.

We are the Lebanon Cedars, and while our town is small, we are mighty, and we can achieve great things when we work together. We are poised and ready to make something great happen in our town, which in turn, will have a positive impact on our planet earth. Our actions here have a ripple effect across the nation, and ALL THE WAY TO THE OCEAN.

Today is International Peace Day, and it is exciting to know that there are many communities across the world, in 111 countries, that are

uniting to do something positive that will help our environment. We are starting our project today, by thinking about ways we can take better care of our environment. You've all read Chapter 1, and you know that Freddy the Fish is urging us to take action so that we can have a sustainable environment for now and for future generations.

Everyone can participate in the Great Lebanon Community Project. We can do it by starting small – noticing our environment, noticing where we put our trash, and paying attention to our use of water, and our waterways. There is much to do. We will start in small ways, but with so many of us, we will make a big difference.

Before I introduce our Mayor, I would like to thank our invited guests for sharing the afternoon with us. Welcome to our public officials, including members of our members City Council, our County Commissioners, and our State Representatives and Senator Folmer. Welcome to our community Partners, HACC, the Lebanon County

Conservation District, Junior Achievement Representatives, Sweep the Streets and Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, YMCA, PSBA, IU13, Lebanon Valley Visitor Center, Farmers Insurance, Department of Environmental Protection, United Way, Ed and Jeanne Arnold, and members of our School Board, Deb Bowman and Rob Okonak. We are glad that you have joined us.

And now, I want to introduce you to our Mayor. Mayor Capello is a terrific lady, and I am happy to partner with her in the Great Lebanon Community Project. You may not know that Mayor Capello makes a big effort to keep our streets and sidewalks clean. Last week, she was awarded a Golden Broom for doing more than her part, by the Community of Lebanon Association. Now, here is Mayor Capello.