

*From the desk of
Maribel Z. Diaz.....*

When my brother and I arrived from Cuba, we were ecstatic to see my mother and exhausted and starving from a grueling day. My mom brought us to our new home, a tiny apartment, and eagerly prepared our first meal. Dinner for us normally consisted of meat, rice, beans, vegetables, etc., and having had nothing since very early in the morning, we were anticipating a feast. So, it was a little surprising when my mother brought out an apple, a can of evaporated milk and coffee. She cut that apple into three portions, mixed the evaporated milk with the coffee, and we feasted. An apple and a café con leche – one of my most memorable and delicious meals – all because my mother took the time as she served us to talk about how grateful she was. We were all together. We had a place to live, food to eat, and opportunity. That meal was delicious because it was served with gratitude and appreciation.

May is a beautiful month. Spring is in full bloom. The weather is not too hot, not too cold. And May is the month we formally show our gratitude to those who have worked with such diligence and love throughout the year to make CEA the special place it is.

CEA is the labor of many. Each of us brings something special and unique to help create this haven for learning and growth. And during May we want to give special thanks to all who have helped create it.

On May 6, we will celebrate our teachers and staff with a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day. We encourage all of you to take the time to write a special note to teachers, hall monitors, office staff, maintenance workers, etc. Those special words are feasts to the hearts of all who receive them.

On May 15, we want to celebrate the incredible volunteers we have in our school. This year you have really outdone yourselves, and we want each of you to stop by at our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and receive our gratitude and appreciation.

Each act of kindness, each word of encouragement, each hour spent in preparation for a class or an event, each moment spent teaching, supporting, enjoying our children – all are worthy of appreciation. And just like my first meal in the USA, whatever you have served during this year- it is most memorable and delightful. And we are truly grateful.