

Dear Watershed Community,

Across the country, more and more adolescents feel a lack of hope for the future. Students at Watershed are no exception. That's why we acknowledge the importance of developing hope as part of a Watershed education. Because if we are true to our mission, as we "build the character and ability of students to take on the world's greatest challenges" we must include the development of hope as an essential element. Because no one will be effective in taking on real challenges in the world if they are filled with despair.

This year our Head's Council (a group of students who work with me to think about the future of our school) has really clarified this issue and has been working to think about ways we can increase the development of hope among young people. They have brainstormed ideas, they have met with staff to think together about this challenge, and they are now refining recommendations for the school moving forward.

This is a big topic, so I'll share more in my next Thursday Note. But here I want to mention just one of the things we are thinking about.

Broadly in our world, we are confronted with more bad news than good news. On our phones, on TV, on the radio, most of the news we read and hear is bad. That's because bad news sells. One small step students suggest is to share more good news – news of solutions, not just problems. One version of this is a project started by David Byrne (most famous as leader of the Talking Heads): [Reasons to Be Cheerful](#). This [video](#) is an overview of the project (worth watching!). Also see below for a forwarded email from the project. What if we did a better job of getting stories like these in front of our students? What if we made sure that as we prepare students to take on great challenges, we make sure they know about great solutions?

To be continued...

Warmly,

Tim

# reasons to be cheerful

Tonic for tumultuous times.

---

The cafeteria scene at school is a social minefield. That's what Laura Talmus learned when her daughter, who had a rare genetic condition, couldn't find anyone to eat with. So Talmus turned her parental pain into positive action, founding a national movement to increase empathy and end social isolation at schools. Now, across the country, kids who might otherwise be eating alone are finding a welcome place at the table with everyone else, side by side. Grab a tray and slide over...

---

## The Day When No Kid Eats Alone

By: Michaela Haas



When Laura Talmus learned that her daughter's classmates refused to eat lunch with her, she started a national movement to end social

isolation in schools.

---

## For the Pre-Retirement Crowd, Teaching Is a Brilliant Second Act

By: MaryLou Costa



Professionals who are winding down their careers but aren't ready to retire are alleviating England's teacher shortage — and giving education a wiser spin.

---

## Wait, You're Not a Member Yet?

Don't miss out! Click here to become a member today and receive special newsletters, event invitations and more.

---

# Ski Resorts Are Turning Wastewater into Snow

By: Justin Franz



As climate change diminishes snowpack, recycled water is providing an eco-friendlier way to keep people on the slopes.

---



“  
**Students are more aware that they can intervene when bullying issues come up in the school, and they are also more careful about using technology in a positive manner.**

—  
School principal that used the Beyond Differences program

---

### What we're reading:

*A new weekly behind-the-scenes peek at what our team has been reading, learning and discussing.*

🇫🇷 Contributing Editor Peter Yeung shared a story about his hometown of Paris. “Parisians just voted to triple parking fees for SUVs. It’s almost unthinkable for this to happen in the US. But, as I reported back in 2022, these measures really are needed to make cities more livable and people-centered.”

📖 Editorial Director Rebecca Worby is reading about how hungry sea otters are helping save California’s marshlands from erosion by eating the crabs that threaten it. On top of the good story, Becca adds that it is “fun to picture all those otters feasting on crabs.”

Read more stories like these [here](#).

---



# In Case You Missed It



## The 'Shopping Wonky' Movement Isn't Just for Fruit Anymore

By: MaryLou Costa

A trend that started with produce is now giving new life to not-quite-perfect toys, homewares, beauty products and beyond.

[READ MORE](#)



## The Montana County Saving Its Ancient Aquifer for Future Generations

By: Keely Larson

After an underground river turned a barren region into fertile farmland, the locals hatched a plan to keep it flowing for ages.

[READ MORE](#)



Did some awesome person forward this to you? [Subscribe here and get it in your own inbox.](#)

If this email is landing in the "Promotions" section of your inbox, you can fix this by dragging it into your "Primary" inbox, or by adding [info@reasonstobecheerful.world](mailto:info@reasonstobecheerful.world) to your web contacts.

*Copyright © 2024 Reasons to be Cheerful, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

--  
**Tim Breen, Ph.D.** | he/him/his  
*Head of School*



1661 Alpine Ave | Boulder, CO 80304  
O: 303.440.7520 | C: 603.991.8528