I think about how teachers grapple with the day to day problems of dealing with the diversity of the challenges they face every day in providing success oriented education opportunities for all those they serve.

For those of you who know me you will recall that I refer often to a quote by Haim Ginott as the guiding principle behind my approach to teaching. I have included it here because I believe it is important and is a framework on which beginning teachers may find useful when thinking about how to implement innovative leadership in schools.

The Ontario College of Teachers Foundations of Professional Practice articulate the values inherent in three key aspects of the teaching profession. They are practice of teaching, ethics of teaching and career life-long professional learning. It is stated expectation that members of the College will apply these principles with respect to leadership and community and will:

- Build trust with students, parents and the community.
- Exercise professional integrity and judgement.
- Motivate and inspire through sharing their vision.
- Create opportunities for students to share their learning with their classmates, schoolmates, parents and the community.
- Invite parents and members of the community to share their knowledge and skills in supporting classroom and school activities.
- Innovate and effect change through decision making, initiating change and evaluating and communicating results.
- Engage others through shared problem solving and conflict resolution.
- Act both as team members and as team leaders.

Dr. Raymond Chodzinski recently retired from Brock University, Faculty of Education. Formerly associate Dean of the Hamilton Campus and founding editor of Teaching and Learning he is now actively involved in the private sector Solutions RTC “expanding horizons” providing specialized counselling services and executive coaching. He continues to speak at selected invited venues, is currently working on a book, writes short stories and poetry and is an active member of several professional organizations. His passion for casting a fly to an unsuspecting salmon, managing a huge garden, learning about photography and reading books that have gathered too much dust has not waned.

Robert J. Oppenheimer wrote: Educators should arouse the hunger for truth and wisdom accompanied by a courageous “divine discontent”. With all our fragmented accomplishments, much lies silently waiting for those who dare to seek coherent doctrines which will define a better world for all mankind.

To close this note on leadership I leave you with lines said to have been spoken by the immortal Don Quixote who reminds us to:

Dream the impossible dream
Fight the unbeatable foe
Bend with unbearable sorrow
Run where the brave dare not go
Right the unrightable wrong
Love when ones arms are too weary
And above all reach for the unreachable star.