

Weekly Notes, September 16, 2016

*No man is an island,  
Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manor of thy friend's  
Or of thine own were:  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind,  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.*

John Donne

It was great to see so many of you last night for Back to School Night. The joy of us being together is tempered by the terrible events that are going on around the country in places such as Charlotte and Tulsa. The racism against African-American men that is embodied in the recent shootings brings to mind this poem. The repeated shootings are traumatic and the horror is unspeakable. As Donne wrote in his poem, each of these deaths diminishes all of us. Each of these men had the spark of the divine that unite us all, and to lose them hurts us all. These killings underscore the need to combat racism and they make it clear how much we need our school to work toward justice and peace. Black lives matter.

-John McKinstry