# Finding life lessons inside a fortune cookie

**By Charles Bradley**
School Superintendent

I have a question for each of you…do you like fortune cookies? Yes, the little Pac-Man-shaped, vanilla-flavored cookie containing a finger-sized slip of paper printed with a pithy fortune or aphorism. Even if you don't like them, you are likely familiar with the concept of finding that slip of paper with the sage advice inside the crunchy wafer. The origin of these treats is debatable, but likely was first conceived in late 1800's Japan and later mass produced in California around 1911. As interesting as that may be, this is not just a history lesson (I was a Science teacher afterall), but there are life lessons to be learned here, and the story has inspired some of my advice to you, our 2022 Seniors:

**Superintendent Charles Bradley**

• First, be inventive. The fortune cookie did not exist until someone came up with the concept and then executed it. We know that we have spent the last 18 years educating you for a world that we could only imagine. Here's what I mean: when you were born, nobody had iPhones, there was no Uber, GrubHub wasn't founded until 2004, DoorDash did not launch until 2013…and this one is going to hurt a little bit…Instagram was not rolled out until 2010! Who knows what the next decade could hold, but you are primed to be the next big thing; all it will take is a little inventiveness.

• Next, never settle! The original "tsujiura senbei," or "fortune cracker," was a popular revolution in the culinary arena but was larger and darker and made with sesame and miso, rather than our current iteration containing vanilla and butter. Just because you have a great idea, even one that is revolutionary, there is likely a way to improve upon it. You may even be able to improve upon someone else's idea - just be careful of those copyrights, trademarks, & patents! Think outside of the box because you are the generation that can improve our world in ways we have yet to imagine. Keep striving and never settle!

• The last piece of advice that I have for you comes from one of the more recent twists on the fortune cookie. In 1991, Dove Promises chocolates gave us a new twist by printing inspirational messages on the inside of their foil candy wrappers. I love these bite-sized chocolates, and recently found this printed inside one of my wrappers: "Be Someone You Look Up To - Emily N Kansas."When I read this message, I immediately thought of the Class of 2022 and this letter. Think of someone that you admire; what qualities do they have? Why do you think so highly of this person?

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Congratulations to the Bronco Class of 2022.
Best wishes on your next adventure!
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