

the thank- you files

The final collection of stories, artwork and thank-you notes that inspire ATPE members each day

PART IV



In summer 2009, *ATPE News* began this four-part series featuring student thank-you notes, artwork and stories submitted by members. We hope that you have enjoyed this series and that it has helped you reconnect with your professional calling. A special thank-you goes to the many ATPE members who responded to our calls for submissions.

Please head to the ATPE Idea Exchange, ATPE's online forum, to discuss the submissions that touch your heart the most and the memories these letters and stories bring back. To reach the Idea Exchange, click on Discuss Education on the Idea Exchange at atpe.org.

Letters from students

I received this note from one of my third-graders after the class discussed what it meant to have a kind heart:

"Mrs. Landrum has a kind heart because she is a nice teacher. I LOVE YOU, Mrs. Landrum. You are a great teacher. In your kind heart I see kindness, helpfulness, love, and the ability to teach. Your love and compassion fills my heart. You have taught me well. What a great teacher you are. I love you!!"

*Submitted by Hilary Landrum,
third-grade teacher, Palmer ISD's
Palmer Intermediate School*

Dear Mrs. Robinson,

I was going to work on my writing when I thought, why not write a letter to my favorite teacher ever! I really mean that. Even though you're 58 years old, you're the nicest teacher ever. I was very happy when I got in the 4th grade. Sorry I have been talking so much lately. I'm going to try to control myself. Once again you're the nicest teacher ever.

*Submitted by Carol Robinson,
fourth-grade teacher,
Iredell ISD's Iredell School*

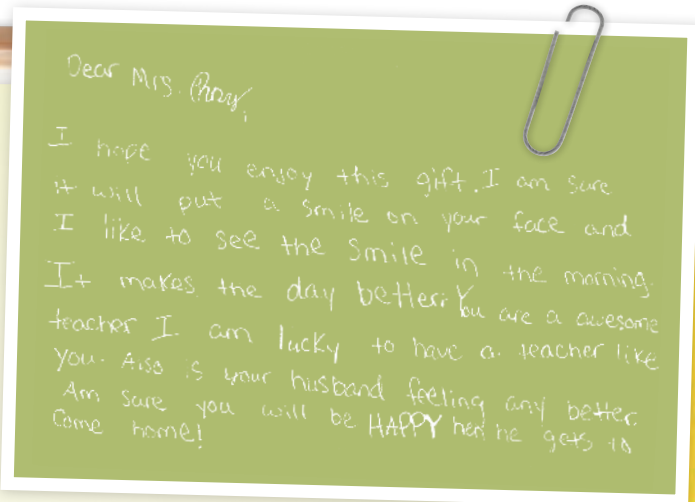
Dear Mrs. Foutz,

If I could pick one word to describe you it would have to be **Awesome!** I often hear kids saying that they hate their teachers but they are definitely not from your class (I asked). The class always feels at ease in your classroom because we know we can count on you and somehow between your busy life schedule you always find a way. It is very hard to believe that at one time in your life you didn't know how to be a teacher.

I want to thank you so much for believing in me and always helping me out whenever you could. Even when [your family] needed you right away, you still had enough time in your life to care for the class and me. If that is not what a true teacher is then I don't know what is. You made life sound real, and by that I mean how you shared with us your personal life. From your sadness and weaknesses to your happiness and accomplishments, you

taught me how cruel the "real" world can be but also all its little surprises. And most of all you taught us how to enjoy it and get ready for it because nothing in this world just comes to you, you have to get up and reach for it!

I have never had a teacher who cared for me and believed in me as much as you did. Don't get

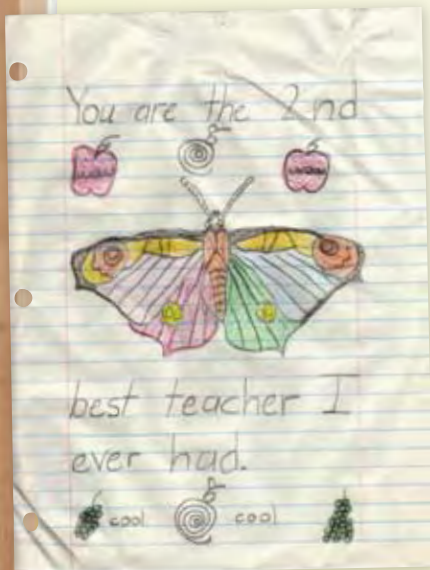


Dear Mrs. Foutz,
I hope you enjoy this gift. I am sure it will put a smile on your face and I like to see the smile in the morning. It makes the day better. You are an awesome teacher. I am lucky to have a teacher like you. Also is your husband feeling any better. Am sure you will be HAPPY when he gets home!

me wrong, I have had teachers who cared for me plenty but I don't think as much as you did. Thank you for all the wonderful opportunities and experiences you have handed out to me generously throughout the year. I know that I am not perfect and that I will come across challenges in my life, but I will face them with wisdom, courage, determination, and belief that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to. I know that I won't always get the lead role, or the top spot but that is okay because if you make the best of things you gain more experience, learn more about yourself and have tons of fun! But the thing is I want to get somewhere, be known, and be some thing one day. I have my days where I just feel like a pile of [excrement] ... all I want to do is shrivel up and be blown away by the wind. But my dreams and of course the belief you have in me makes me not want to give up.

Mrs. Foutz, **THANK YOU**, for everything and when I am down I will remember everything that you have done for me.

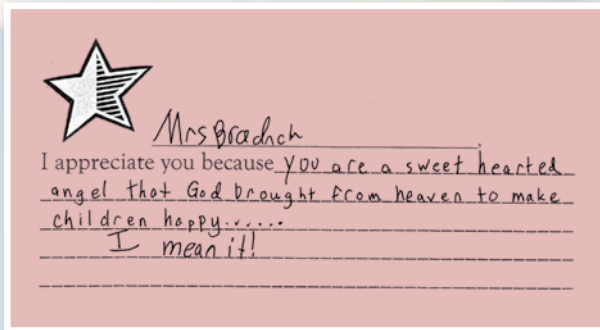
*Submitted by Jamie Foutz,
sixth grade math/science teacher,
Uvalde CISD's Flores Elementary*



Story of thanks

When I picked up my lunch from the cafeteria, there was a note on it. It said: "Mrs. Hicks, my daughter talks about you all the time. She still has the journal you used to write back and forth to her." I thought for sure the student had mixed me up with someone since I've only been full time in the school for one year. The next time I called in my lunch order, the woman on the end was excited. She kept saying thank you. She told me how her daughter loves writing and keeping a journal. Just as I was about to tell her that she had me confused with someone else, she said that as a substitute filling in for a teacher on maternity leave I really had an impact. That was about three years ago! It made my day.

*Submitted by Estelle Hicks,
second-grade teacher, Flour Bluff ISD's Flour Bluff Primary School*



Mrs. Braduch
I appreciate you because you are a sweet hearted angel that God brought from heaven to make children happy.....
I mean it!