

the thank- you files



More of the stories,
artwork and thank-
you notes that inspire ATPE members each day

PART III

Throughout the 2009-10 membership year, *ATPE News* plans to continue printing "The Thank-You Files," a series we began in the summer 2009 issue that features student thank-you notes, artwork and stories. We're also continuing to collect submissions from members. Send your treasured notes, artwork and anecdotes to comm@atpe.org for possible publication.

Discuss the Thank-You Files

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. Find a link to the ATPE Idea Exchange at atpe.org.

Letters from students

Mr. Forbis,

You are the best math teacher ever. You will always be my fave math teacher whether you are teaching 3rd grade or Kindergarten.

P.S. You Rock!

*Submitted by Jason Forbis,
kindergarten teacher, Midway
(12)'s Spring Valley Elementary*

Dear Mrs. Patzke,


I am sorry that I have been bad in your class and making your heart break in pieces. Please forgive me. I will never be bad again. Please forgive me. I love you Mrs. Patzke!

*Submitted by Mallory Patzke,
third-grade teacher, Rogers ISD's
Rogers Elementary*

Dear Mrs. Schwarz,

Thank you for everything you've done for me. The letter of recommendation, all the information, and the time you've spent for me helped a lot, but the thing I appreciate you the most is that you really encouraged me to continue and kept me from being depressed. I couldn't make it without you!

THANK YOU SO MUCH
&
LOVE YOU!



Dear Mrs. Colwell,

Thanks for being such a great teacher this year! I've learned a lot! Now you don't have to worry about kids confusing your coffee cup with a beaker! Have a great summer, and keep cooking that calamari! Thanks for a great year!

*Submitted by Gail Colwell,
science teacher, Conroe ISD's
McCullough Junior High*

Hello Ms. Cameron,

I was a student of yours at Shenandoah Elementary in the very early seventies and have always considered you to be my favorite teacher. I believe I was in your class in third grade and then again in fifth grade.

I recently married a first-grade teacher in New Braunfels, and watching her with her students very much reminded me of you. She is so patient, kind and loving with her kids, and it brought back the special feeling I always had in your class. I always felt encouraged, special and, well, just loved.

Being married to a teacher has opened my eyes in so many ways. It is easy to see that my wife loves her work and that she was born to it. It is also easy to see the difference in the teachers

who do not take their work or their students seriously. When I mentioned you to my wife, she suggested I look you up and let you know how you influenced me and how I remembered you.

You should know that I appreciate you and am glad you chose the career that you did. I don't know if it was a "calling" for you, like my wife's seems to be, or just a job. Regardless, the effects of your work have lasted a lifetime, and I hope you are truly aware of the difference you have made in my life ... probably hundreds of lives.

I know that you may be retiring one day.

I hope before you do, that you'll take a moment to reflect on your career and know that you had a huge positive impact on at least one person in this world. And even if you hear a thousand words of thanks, I want to be sure that you hear mine

Thank you, Ms. Cameron.

*Submitted by Ann Cameron,
elementary math specialist,
Northside (20) ISD's James L.
Carson Elementary*

Stories of thanks

Last year, with Christmas approaching, several of my students who could not afford teacher gifts were talking about purchasing them. I told my class the only thing I wanted was a little PEACE. If everyone would take their class work seriously, turn their work in on time, do their very best, and act appropriately in class, that would be all I wanted for Christmas. Just a little peace for one day would be the perfect gift. A young man shopped hard and found a cup that had *peace* on it. He stated that all I wanted was peace and I could look at that and have my peace. Believe me, I look at it often and think how peaceful the moment is and reflect on his thoughtfulness.

*Submitted by Brenda Webb,
fourth-grade science/social studies teacher,
Rosebud-Lott ISD's Lott Elementary*

Just this past December, I received a college graduation announcement from a former student who was a senior when I started teaching five years ago. He had decided to major in criminal justice, and I introduced him to my husband, a police captain. It was a great way for us to give

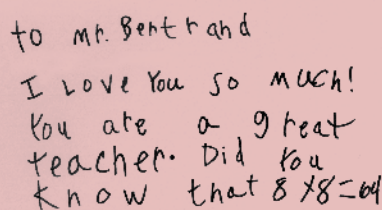
back to our community and to mentor this young man.

Along with the announcement came a handwritten note from his mother. She informed me that I would never know the extent to which I

had influenced and impacted the life of her son. This young man was not only graduating from college, but he had also already been hired on with a local police department. The mother thanked us for helping [her son] achieve his goals.

It had been four-and-a-half years since I had seen this young man or even heard his name.

*Submitted by Kandy Stevens,
CTE department chair,
Frisco ISD's Liberty High School*



to Mr. Bertrand
I love you so much!
You are a great
teacher. Did you
know that $8 \times 8 = 64$