

Behind the Scenes School Support

Appreciating Others



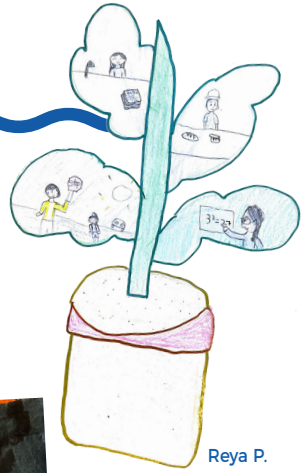
RESPOND to the insight that there are many people who work quietly behind the scenes to make school a safe, joyful, and productive place. How does their work impact your school experiences? Why is it important to recognize and appreciate their efforts? Think about how you might show gratitude to someone who supports school operations yet might go unnoticed.



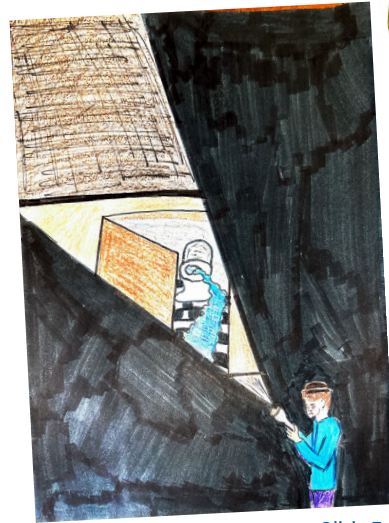
CONNECT your appreciation of school support staff with the many different activities, programs, and operation-related events that keep your school going. Who is working behind the scenes to make sure that lunch is ready, the heat and air conditioning work, equipment is cleaned, snow is cleared, grass is cut, and much more? In addition to health, safety, and nutrition, who is involved in ensuring our learning by ordering new books, art supplies, and resources that enable students to read new publications, conduct science experiments and create visual artwork as well as musical performances? What other actions are taken by people who you may not see every day, but who impact your school experiences?



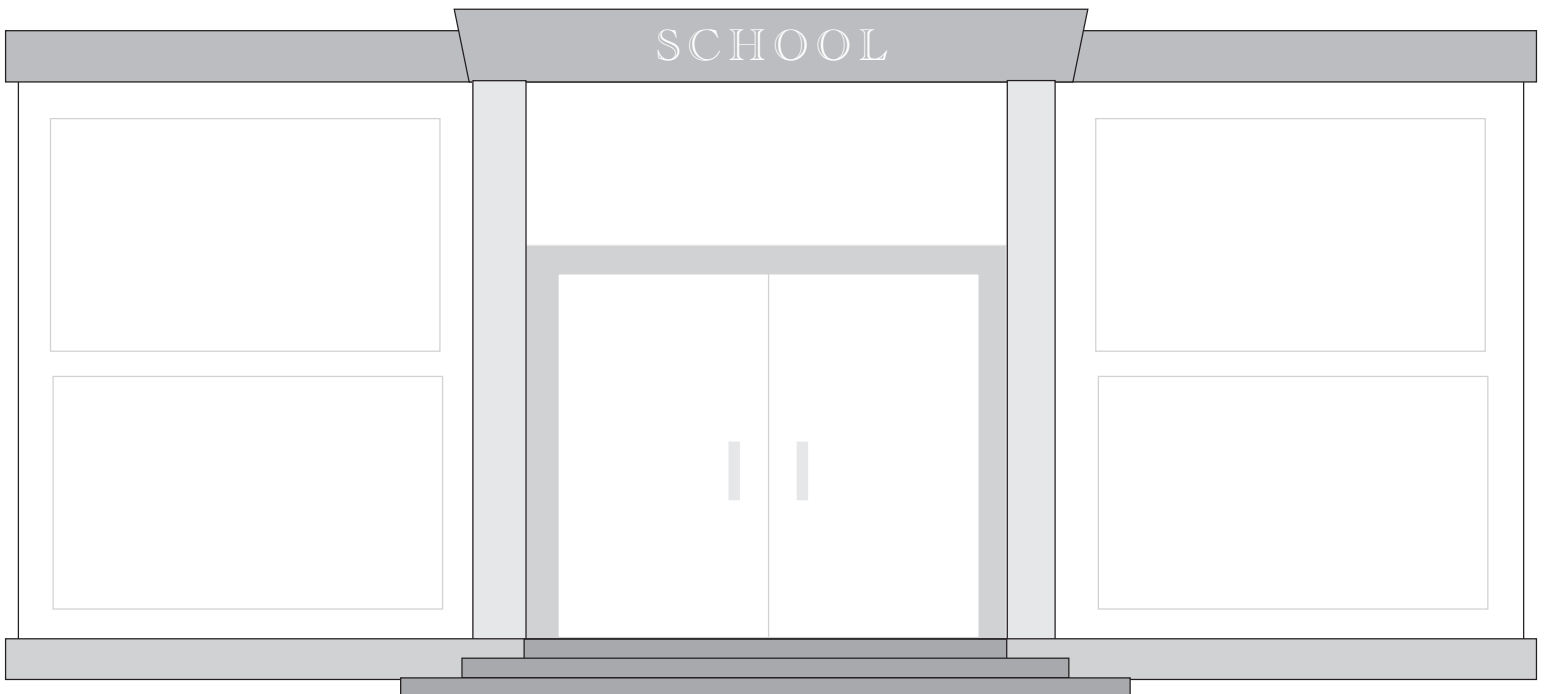
CREATE a "behind the scenes" illustration of one of these people supporting your school with their special contributions. You might focus on someone who works on the district calendar or communicates the daily schedule. Perhaps your illustration will be of someone inspecting the campus at night to be sure the buildings are secure, repairing leaky toilets and overflowing sinks, or replacing burned out light bulbs. Show the person in action, which might include collaboration with other adults or students.



Reya P.



Olivia E.



PRESENT your illustration to classmates and explain the behind-the-scenes role this person plays in the school or district. Describe what inspired your drawing and what you learned about how support staff play a vital role in the success of schools. How could you express your appreciation to this person next time you see them?

Because of You

Appreciating Teachers

May is **Teacher Appreciation Month**. Teachers have enduring influence on people's lives. The ways they help children become knowledgeable, capable, caring, and responsible leave long-lasting impressions on everyone. This is a great time for students and their families to reflect on the impact a teacher has made on a child.



RESPOND to the following questions, thinking about a teacher's influence on you. Children and parents can enjoy this memory exercise, tell their stories, and compare their thoughts.

- When and how did a teacher help me understand myself and consider the needs of others?
- How did a teacher spark my curiosity and help me explore what I find fascinating?
- When did I use the problem-solving skills I learned from a teacher?
- What memories do I have of when a teacher made me feel special?
- Who might I become and what career might I choose because of a teacher who believed in me?

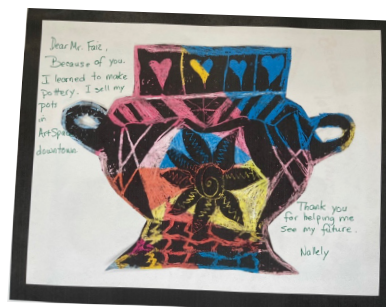
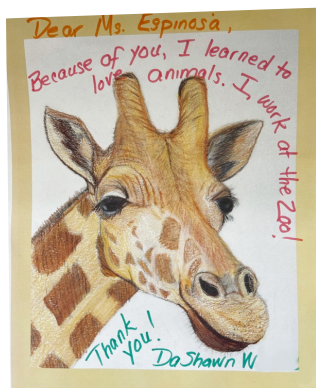


CONNECT your teacher memories to those that others shared when answering the questions. What patterns did you hear? What examples were described most vividly? How might those reflections be represented in art?



CREATE an illustrated collage or poster that brings your memories to life. Use art and words to represent how a teacher influenced you. You could use the "Because of you, I _____" statement as a title, finishing it in a personal way. You could add the teacher's name, a story about the experience you remember, and one or more sketches that show how this impacts you today or your vision for the future.

Because of you, I...



PRESENT your artistic work to the teacher you remembered either in person, through the mail, by email, or social media. It can be exciting and gratifying to let teachers know how much they are appreciated for the influence they have made in students' lives.



Education

THINKING SHEET

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Simple Steps to Card Making

Appreciating Teachers

May is **Teacher Appreciation Month**. While we encourage children to express appreciation and kindness all year long, this is a special time for them to celebrate their teachers. Students and their families can share their thanks with teachers by making cards that come from their hands and hearts.

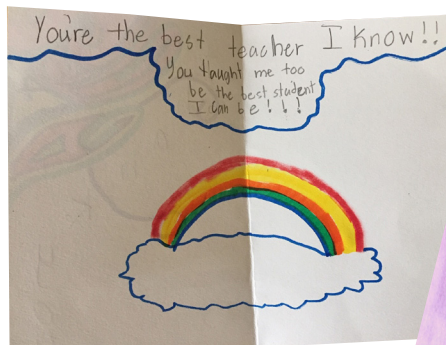


CONNECT your favorite memories of working with teachers during the year and how you could express your appreciation. What special leadership qualities, kind acts, and encouragement were demonstrated to students and the broader community? Children can consider the following questions and start to list reasons they enjoy working with and learning from their teachers.

-  What makes this teacher special?
-  Who else has helped you learn and grow, in school and beyond?
-  How do teachers influence your growth and your life?
-  In what ways can students, families, and the overall community thank teachers?
-  How can you customize a thank you card to make it unique for each teacher you want to thank?



RESPOND to and build upon the answers to those questions by thinking of ways to weave memorable stories and examples of each teacher's influence into the card. What keywords and visual symbols communicate the relationship you have with a particular teacher or a team of educators?



CREATE a card that uses words and visuals to share your feelings. Use colors, lines, and shapes to help communicate your thoughts.



PRESENT your appreciation card to your teacher(s). If you can see each other in person, that is great. If not, plan how you will share your card(s) using a mailbox, email, or social media.