



Eagle Talk

Thank You

SAYRE SCHOOLS

April 2016

"The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth." ~Dan Rather

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Thank You...

Two words. This expression is stated countless times every day by millions of people, perhaps for holding open a door, doing a favor, or completing a task. But what do these words mean when spoken to a teacher? Are these two small, common words enough to hold up the days of a teacher? Days spent juggling a multitude of tasks, lessons, expectations, mandates, deadlines, requests, tears, personalities, emotions, energy, worry, heartache, anxiety—and a great deal of other things that nobody even realizes.

Can these two words account for the exhaustion at the end of the day—and the worry that they haven't done enough? Does it stand up to the piles of work

carried out the door to be done later at home in addition to family responsibilities? Or

enough. It doesn't pay the bills or ease impossible expectations—but it can make a

"TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH UNATTAINABLE GOALS WITH INADEQUATE TOOLS. THE MIRACLE IS THAT AT TIMES THEY ACCOMPLISH THIS IMPOSSIBLE TASK." ~HAIM GINOTT

perhaps that teacher isn't going straight home at 3:30 because they drive a bus, tutor kids, coach several nights a week, or work another job to make it somehow come together at the end of the month.

So is it enough? What's amazing is that most teachers would say that it is. That hearing a sincere "thank you" from a smiling child, parent, or administrator is

rough day (or week or month...or year) better. When a teacher sees a child turn a corner, accomplish a goal, or achieve what at first seemed impossible—they jump for joy with them and celebrate side-by-side, because in a way, it's the teacher's victory too. And for a moment, all of the negative fades to the background, and *thank you* becomes more than enough.

What a Teacher Wants...

With Teacher Appreciation Week approaching next month (heads up: May 2-6), one might wonder what a teacher actually wants as a token of thanks? In the good old days, a well-polished apple might do the trick—and even though educators strive to be a healthy bunch, the need for afternoon sugar and caffeine often overcome any lost ambition of nutrition that started on a Monday morning. So it's hard to go wrong with yummy goodies or a gift card to your local coffee shop. But seriously, what does a teacher really want?

More Time...

Recently, I read an article in *HuffPost Education*, where teacher Jennifer Wolfe lays out what she believes teachers really want for Teachers Appreciation Week. She cites the "gift of time" as the "most sought-after gift of all." I believe that Ms. Wolfe is right on target. What some people don't realize is that several times a week a teacher's day starts off with duty and/or meetings before 8:00am. That day then continues with lessons, lectures, projects, copies, emails, paperwork, discipline, more duty, more meetings, and the list goes on. Jennifer says it well when she states, "I don't know an educator who wouldn't celebrate with the gift of more minutes to create curriculum, contact parents, grade papers, learn how to use technology... For Teacher Appreciation Week, I'd love to

have just a bit more time to make your child's learning experience that much more exciting and relevant."

Knowing They Matter....

If you asked most teachers why they went into the profession, what do you suppose their answer would be? "Most of the teachers I know didn't start teaching because they wanted to make life harder for their students and their families. They didn't start teaching because they felt it was their responsibility to become substitute parents, or to give failing grades or to do anything except make a difference in the life of a child," Jennifer Wolfe stated in her article. Teaching is a profession of service—they give and give their entire career—getting very little in return sometimes. Teachers have to feel as though they are doing something worthwhile—that at the end of the day what they did mattered in the life of a child. If this feeling isn't there, it takes away from what they do.

Simply Put...

So, with all that being said—one of the best gifts you can give a teacher any time of the year is your sincere appreciation. Tell them or show them what they mean to you—or what they have meant to your child. Tell them that they make a difference and their efforts are worthwhile. Never underestimate the power of a *thank you*—because more often than not, it's enough.

April Highlights

April 8: School Board Meeting (Central Office @ 12:00pm)
April 8: HSBA vs. Navajo (H)
April 8: MSSB vs. Navajo (H)
April 8: HSSB vs. Navajo (H)
April 9: Cordell Band Contest
April 9: MSSB; Mangum JS Festival
April 11-26: Elem OCCT Testing (TBA)
April 11: MSBA @ BFDC (T)
April 11: HSBA @ BFDC (T)
April 11: HSBG; Elk City
April 11: Elem 2016-17 Pre-Enrollment
April 12: MSSB @ Duke (T)
April 12: HSSB @ Duke (T)
April 12: MSBA vs. Cheyenne (H)
April 12: HSBA vs. Cheyenne (H)
April 13: HSGG; Clinton
April 13: Elem Progress Reports Go Home
April 14-15: HSSB; Arnett Tourn (TBA)
April 14: HSBA @ El Reno (T)
April 14: MSSB vs. Sentinel (H)
April 14: Scholarship Applications Due
April 15: MS/HS Progress Reports Go Home
April 16: HS Track; Altus
April 18-20: State Band Contest (Stillwater)
April 18: HSBA vs. Leedey (H)
April 18: MSSB @ Mangum (T)
April 18: HSSB @ Mangum (T)
April 19: OKC Bombing Remembrance Day
April 19: MSSB @ Merritt (T)
April 19: HSSB @ Merritt (T)
April 19: HSGG; Regional Qualifier (TBA)
April 21-23: HSSB; District Tournament
April 21: OSSAA State Vocal Contest
April 21: Pre-K Program (Cafeteria)
April 21: HSBA vs. Frederick (H)
April 22: School Dismissed
April 22: Prom @ 8:00pm (Beckham Co. Activity Barn)
April 25: HSBA @ Shattuck (T)
April 25: HSBG; Regional Qualifier
April 25: 5th grade Tour of Middle School
April 26: HS Track Meet; Weatherford
April 26-28: Middle School 2016-2017 Pre-Enrollment
April 26: HSBA; Regional Tournament
April 26: R.I.F. Distribution
April 26: MS Spring Dance @ 6pm
April 27-29: High School 2016-2017 Pre-Enrollment
April 28-30: HSBA; District Tournament
April 28-29: HSSB; Regional Tournament
April 30: HS Track Regional Meet (TBA)

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Source: Wolfe, Jennifer. "What do Teachers Really Want from Teacher Appreciation Week?" *HuffPost Education*. 05 May 2015. Web.