



Eagle Talk

A Teacher's Love

SAYRE SCHOOLS

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By: Andrea Dickson

**“TEACHERS ENCOURAGE MINDS TO THINK, HANDS TO CREATE,
AND HEARTS TO LOVE.” –AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

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A Teacher's Love

The definition of a teacher's love cannot be found in a book—it can't be looked up or wrote down or researched to find a suitable answer. Simply put, it exceeds the barriers that we often place on love. It consists of all those intangible things that love is supposed to be—and that is perhaps what makes it so extraordinary.

I will not speak in length of the need for higher salaries, more resources, and just the overall support essential for teachers in today's world. Because at the end of the day, a teacher may feel the sting of these things, but it does not change their heart. It does not alter their purpose. *It does not win.* A teacher will continue to do what they have always done for children,

regardless of the cost and sacrifice.

Teachers are fiercely protective of their students and will go to

candy, snacks, smiles, supplies, tutoring, conversation, observation, trying—and trying again, forgiveness,

“Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.” ~Rita Pierson

great lengths to make sure they have every chance to succeed. A teacher's love is often seen in the giving of their time, their support, and their genuine interest in the lives of their students. A teacher's love comes in many forms: instruction, hugs, Band-Aids,

understanding, discipline, and sometimes it is as simple as asking about a student's day—then actually waiting and listening to the reply. It's as small as giving them your full attention—even for a few minutes—because they are worth it.

Simply Stated

Sayre educators recently voted for their site building Teachers of the Year. This is a huge honor—it means that your colleagues think you are the best of the best at what you do. This is what our site Teachers of the Year had to say about a teacher's love.

The More You Give...

Sandy Whinery, our elementary and secondary music teacher, can be seen and heard up and down our halls on any given day. Her unique laugh is infectious and before long, you find yourself laughing right along with her. She is the one on the front row of the auditorium swaying and singing away with her students as they perform. And whether it's a big high school musical production or a kindergarten Christmas program, Sandy lives every moment out with her kids—their eyes fixed on her—never wanting to let her down. When asked her thoughts on the definition of a teacher's love, she replied, "A teacher's love requires patience, kindness, smiles, joy, and hugs, but the more you give, the more you get in return!"

Learning and Loving...

Shelley Maddoux not only teaches middle school science, but you can also find her driving a bus route every day or staying late to conduct middle school cheerleading practice. She will joke that she struggles with all this new technology that teachers use—but she never struggles where it matters most—and that is putting her time and effort into kids. Shelley

has the love and patience it takes to make a difference—and she has been doing it day in and day out for a long time. When asked what she thought about a teacher's love, she replied with a quote: "Students who are loved at home, come to school to learn, and students who aren't, come to school to be loved." (Nicholas A. Ferroni)

Like Family....

Fernando Zamarripa, also known as "Z" at our school is everywhere it seems. He runs the concession stand at our home games, often takes care of refreshments on the professional development days, and drives kids to and from school every day on a bus route. Z seems to teach history and Spanish with as much zeal as he always has—and shows no signs of slowing down. When asked about a teacher's love, he connected it back to the thoughts of his past: "I have learned to care deeply about my fellow man from my military experience. I was entrusted by my Nation and the soldier's families to train these young men to fight, win and survive on the battlefield. A sense of brotherhood grew and also close ties became a strong bond among us. Love is a powerful emotion and it can overcome many obstacles in life. This love for my students is very similar to the love I had for my soldiers and also for my own children and grandchildren. I care deeply for them and always wanted them to achieve their goals in life. As a parent and grandfather I've entrusted their lives and education to all the

teachers that came their way. Now as an educator, that same sense of love and responsibility for guiding these young lives to achieve their goals are upon me again. I care deeply for them, no matter their status in the community or background for they are still children who need us. When they achieve, I feel joy for them and when they don't, we'll try it again."

February Highlights

Feb 1-5: National School Counseling Week
Feb 2: HS BB vs Hollis (H) Senior Night
Feb 3: MS Practice Writing Exam
Feb 4: Student/Parent FAFSA/Scholarship Night (Comp Lab)
Feb 4: Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-8:30pm
Feb 5-6: SWOBDA Clinic & Concert (Weatherford)
Feb 5: HSBB @ Carnegie (T)
Feb 5: Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00-11:30 (Students dismissed)
Feb 5: Board Meeting (Central Office) @ 12:00pm.
Feb 6: HS State Academic Meet (El Reno)
Feb 8: Professional Day (Students Dismissed)
Feb 8: MSBB @ Elk City (T)
Feb 9: HSBB @ Clinton (T)
Feb 9: 7/8 BB @ Hollis (T)
Feb 11: MS Pep Assembly 2:30
Feb 11: MSBB vs. Carnegie (H)
Feb 12: Elem Valentine's Parties 2:30
Feb 12: HS BB @ Hobart (T)
Feb 13: District Vocal Contest (Weatherford) TBA
Feb 13: HS Semi-Formal Valentine's Dance (8-11pm)
Feb 15-19: Elem Benchmark Testing
Feb 15: MSBB vs. Cordell (H)
Feb 15: OGPAC Awards Banquet (Thomas) TBA
Feb 17: National Random Acts of Kindness
Feb 17: Local Speech Competition (grades 3-8)
Feb 17-18: SW District Livestock Show (Chickasha) TBA
February 18: Pre-District Band Contest (Elk City)
Feb 19-20: HSBB District Tourn TBA
Feb 22-27: National FFA Week Activities
Feb 23: OK Engineering Fair (OKC)
Feb 24: 5th & 8th Writing Exam
Feb 25: FFA Dodgeball Tourn (6:30pm)
Feb 25-27: HSBB Regional Tourn (TBA)
Feb 28-Mar 1: Beckham County Junior Livestock Show (Activity Barn)