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10 Reasons to Appreciate Teachers

By Susan Dunn

10 Reasons to Appreciate Teachers by Susan Dunn, MA Psychology, Emotional

Intelligence Coach

For National Teacher Appreciation Week, and every other week of the year, here are ten reasons why I appreciate certain teachers I had.

If you appreciate a teacher, let him or her know!

1. Mr. Thompson, my first-year Latin teacher.

He taught me to question! To use my brain and not allow myself to be spoon-fed. He told us verbs were conjugated one way on Monday, and then introduced the other way on Tuesday, saying, "And now you're saying, 'My teacher has lied to me.' Well, they do!" It kept me on my toes, so to speak, and brought me into the real world where the rules don't always apply and tricky things can happen.

2. Dr. Drake, my third-year Latin teacher.

Taught me how much I respect someone who stands for something and enforces it. The students had been picking on a girl I'll call Clara. Dr. Drake sent her from class one day on an errand, and gave us a lecture about how people were going to be treated in her classroom. I can still see her pacing the floor, making her point. Things changed for Clara after that ... and for me.

3. Mrs. English, my high school English teacher.

She cared enough to notice I was goofing off and called me on it, teaching me to respect myself. She refused to accept the half-a**** paper I had turned in, saying it was nowhere near what I was capable of producing, and told me to do it over.

4. Dr. Harriet Sheridan, college professor who taught me Principles of Teaching.

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Dr. Sheridan gave me a role model for how a woman can live a balanced life. At the time, few women were working outside the home. She had a Ph.D. and taught full-time at the college, and also had 2 children. She invited us to her home often enough for me to see she was excellent at both.

5. Dr. Owen Jenkins, college English professor.

Taught me how to reason. And also that when you have self-confidence you can be warm and funny. Brilliant, he was also very funny. He taught the senior Logic Seminar. No quarters!

6. Mrs. Wilson, my fourth grade teacher.

Got me into the creative world. Coming from a household that was intellectual and didn't encourage creative work, I was a budding but un-acknowledged artist. Mrs. Wilson put one of my drawings on the cover of the school newsletter. I was never the same after that.

7. Miss Adams, my first grade teacher.

She showed me how much I loved to teach. I was assigned to teach the new girl, Janie Lambert, how to read. I've been teaching (and loving it) ever since.

8. Mrs. Sledge, my piano teacher.

She taught me discipline. I started, with great excitement at the age of 6 and learned I could learn something very hard if I would just stick with it. She taught character along with piano. I stood up tall when I walked in for my lessons (and when I walked out)!

9. Mr. Framingham, high school English teacher, who supervised my student teaching.

He taught me how to really teach. At the local high school, he taught the honors class and the remedial class, and under his supervision, I taught both. Anyone can teach the brightest and the best. Mr. Framingham knew how to teach people who were very difficult to teach. He told me senior year in high school would be their last chance for a formal learning experience, and he wanted to make it happen. Go Mr. Framingham!

10. Dr. Porter, my college Greek and Mythology teacher.

He (and really all the ones I've mentioned) taught me to love learning. So incredibly passionate about his field, he made Greek (the language), interesting ... every morning at 8 a.m. He couldn't wait to begin class. He never wanted to let us go. "Just one more thing," he would say, his eyes gleaming.

He, and all the other great teachers I've had, lit a fire under me, igniting a lifetime love of learning. I hope you've had some too! If so, pass it on.

Susan Dunn, MA Psychology, Emotional Intelligence Coach, <http://www.susandunn.cc> . Let me teach

you emotional intelligence. Coaching, Internet courses, teleclasses and ebooks for your personal and professional development. [Mailto:sdunn@susandunn.cc](mailto:sdunn@susandunn.cc) for free ezine.

Public-school Teachers Know Best ---- They Send Their Kids To Private Schools

By Joel Turtel

A study done by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute found that nationwide, public-school teachers are almost twice as likely as other parents to send their children to a private school. The study also found that more than one in five public-school teachers send their kids to private schools.

In the biggest cities across America, the statistics get even more startling. In Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and 16 other big cities, more than 1 out of 4 public-school teacher's kids attend private schools. In some cities, almost half the public-school teachers do this. For example, in Philadelphia, 44 percent, and in Cincinnati, 41 percent of public-school teachers sent their kids to private schools.

Yet, across America, only about 12.2 percent of all parents who are not teachers send their children to private schools.

Now, why is this? Public school authorities keep telling us that they give our kids a good education. Yet they send their kids to private schools?

Well, teachers know best in this case. They actually work in the public schools every day. They see the kind of 3rd-rate, often mind-numbing education children get in these schools. Public-school teachers love their children like all other parents do. They want the best for their kids. So, is it any wonder that so many teachers send their children to private schools?

These statistics should be a warning signal for parents, a red flag waving briskly in the wind. If your children's teachers are sending their children to private schools, should you be keeping your kids in public school? If the soldier-teachers in the public-school trenches tell you that there is something very wrong with these schools, you should, for once, be listening to them.

Actions speak louder than words. The fact that so many public-school teachers send their kids to private schools should be all the proof you need that it might be wise for you to look for education alternatives for your kids elsewhere.

If you think you can't afford an expensive private school, you're happily mistaken. Joel Turtel's book, "Public Schools, Public Menace" tells parents all about quality, low-cost Internet private schools. These private schools are a great new resource for giving your children an excellent education at an affordable price.

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