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–LIFE IS RICHER WITH GRATITUDE–

Have you told a teacher, principal, paraprofessional, secretary, or other school staff member how much you appreciate them? American Education Week is November 14–20, a perfect opportunity for parents to express our thanks for educators who make a difference in our children's lives! School staff may frequently hear from parents when they're unhappy, but how often do we take the time to let them know when things are going well?

It's important for parents to develop positive relationships with the people who touch their children's lives day in and day out. Just as we want educators to recognize and value our children's strengths and interests, we need to show our appreciation for *their* strengths and the positive impact they have on our children's lives. Take a moment this week to sit down with your child and your spouse/partner and make a list of all the positive things that are happening at your child's school. Is the building a clean, safe, welcoming environment? Thank the school custodian. Does your child feel comfortable going to the office and asking for help? Share your appreciation with the school secretary. Has your child's reading improved? Tell the teacher you're thrilled about this. Did you receive support from the principal at a recent meeting? Share how much that meant to you. Is there a trusted adult always willing to help your child on the playground? Take a minute and thank the paraprofessional. Keep brainstorming all the positive aspects of your child's school day, identify who makes that possible, and let them know you appreciate them!

Parents love to get positive phone calls from the school. Return the gesture, make a positive phone call, send a handwritten note, bring a treat to the teachers' lounge, or send an email to the person's supervisor and share your appreciation. Help your child learn to express gratitude by drawing a special picture for the person, writing a thank you card, or making a donation to the person's favorite charity. What other ways can you and your child show your appreciation to people who make a positive difference in your child's life?

Identify your vision: See the positive aspects of your child's education.

Use your voice: Thank those who make it possible!

Work together: Model for your child how important it is to appreciate others.

Read previous issues of my newsletter on my website. [Click here](#). Please let me know if you're interested in one of my presentations and/or customized consulting and coaching.

What we anticipate, determines what we find!
Charmaine Thaner