

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: THE TEACHERS AMONG US

September is Back-to-School Month and a great time to express our appreciation for all the wonderful teachers who have played such vital roles in the lives of every generation.

The Tattler salutes the many retired teachers among our Treemont residents, and we have selected a few quotes just for you—to let you know how much we love you and what a debt of gratitude we owe you:

I Want To Be Like You

Thank you, teacher,
for being my life's role model.
When I consider all you've taught me
and reflect on the kind of person you are,
I want to be like you—
smart, interesting and engaging,
positive, confident, yet unpretentious.
I want to be like you—
well-informed and easy to understand,
thinking with your heart as well as your
head,
gently nudging us to do our best,
with sensitivity and insight.
I want to be like you—
giving your time, energy and talent
to ensure the brightest possible future
for each of us.
Thank you, teacher
For giving me a goal to shoot for:
I want to be like you!

Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart and soul of the educational system. *Sidney Hooks*

HEART OF A TEACHER

by Paula J. Fox

"The child arrives like a mystery
box...
with puzzle pieces inside
some of the pieces are broken or
missing...
and others just seem to hide

But the HEART of a teacher can sort
them out...
and help the child to see
the potential for greatness he has
within...
a picture of what he can be

Her goal isn't just to teach
knowledge...
by filling the box with more parts
it's putting the pieces together...
to create a work of art.

The process is painfully slow at
times...
some need more help than others
each child is a work in progress...
with assorted shapes and colors

First she creates a classroom...
where the child can feel safe in
school
where he never feels threatened or
afraid to try...
and kindness is always the rule

She knows that a child can achieve
much more when he feels secure
inside
when he's valued and loved...and
believes in himself ...
and he has a sense of pride

She models and teaches good character...And respect for one another, how to focus on strengths...not weaknesses...

and how to encourage each other...She gives the child the freedom he needs... to make choices on his own so he learns to become more responsible... and is able to stand alone

He's taught to be strong and think for himself... as his soul and spirit heal and the puzzle that's taking shape inside... has a much more positive feel

The child discovers the joy that comes... from learning something new... and his vision grows as he begins to see all the things he can do

A picture is formed as more pieces fit... an image of the child within,

With greater strength and confidence...

And a belief that he can win!

All because a hero was there...

In the HEART of a teacher who cared

Enabling the child to become much more...

Than he ever imagined...or dared

A teacher with HEART for her children...

Knows what teaching is all about

She may not have all the answers...

But on this she has no doubt

When asked which subjects she loved to teach,

She answered this way and smiled...

"It's not the subjects that matter.... It's all about teaching the CHILD."

To teach is to change a life, and no teacher will ever in this life fully know the extent of his or her influence.

Lois McCall