

From: Adair Spence

Date: Mon, May 2, 2022 at 9:12 AM

Subject: Teacher/ Principal Appreciation Shout Outs

To: Craig Bueno <cbuenotrustee@lvjUSD.org>, <yguzmantrustee@lvjUSD.org>, Emily Prusso <eprussotrustee@lvjUSD.org>, <kwangtrustee@lvjUSD.org>, <awhitetrustee@lvjUSD.org>, Kelly Bowers <kbowers@lvjUSD.org>

Cc: William Spence <cvanschaack@lvjUSD.org>

Dear Board Members and Superintendent Bowers,

I don't even know where to begin. As someone who has been in education for 17 years (even spent one fun year split between Junction 7th grade and Christensen 8th grade), I can truthfully say that this has been the hardest year yet. I know that many of my peers across the nation agree and that LVJUSD teachers were not immune to the challenges this year has brought. I would like to point out a few exemplary teachers you have on staff at Rancho Las Positas.

Please excuse the longevity of this email, but I encourage you to take a moment and read about these amazing educators.

This year my family is in round two of having the most dynamic duo Mrs. Pastrnak and Mrs. Brackett. I truly could not think of a better introduction to school. Both my kids grew leaps and bounds in the year they spent with these kind, organized, and dedicated women. A child's attitude towards school really is cemented in those first years, and I have no doubt that their year in TK will have a lasting impact on their lives. I owe so much to both Mrs. Pastrnak and Mrs. Brackett.

Last year, my daughter was in kindergarten with Ms. Stevens. Wow. Where to begin?! My daughter has the attention span of a gnat, even when doing her most favorite activities and yet she would sit at her computer every day ready to learn with Ms. Stevens. My social butterfly even ultimately chose to stay in distance to be with her and I was able to let her make that decision because she was successful during that year. The instructional videos that walked her through each asynchronous assignment (yes, each and every worksheet) made a potentially isolating activity both engaging and fun. I truly believe that the insane amount of time and energy Ms. Stevens put into last year, directly correlates with my daughter's success this year, and for future years.

This year, my son is in TK and we are enjoying all the time we have left with Pastrnak and Brackett and my daughter has Mrs. Perlin. I know Mrs. Perlin came from another school/district and wow, what a get. She has one of the most difficult jobs this year. She had to take a group of kids who mostly had not experienced "regular school" and were "behind" according to standards and catch them up both socially and academically. She has done so with grace, organization, a huge heart, and clear expectations. My daughter both respects and loves her. Whenever we go anywhere with a beautiful succulent, she wants to buy it for Mrs. Perlin because she knows how much she loves them and she is so grateful for her support and help throughout the year. It says a lot when a 7 year old understands the dynamics of a classroom and how lucky she is to have the teacher they have. While all of her teachers have brought

her to this point, Mrs. Perlin supported and guided her into exploding into a reader. She is now addicted to books and is proud of every little success in class.

Lastly, we cannot forget that it was principal appreciation too. I'll never forget a block party where liquor was being poured, listening to parents chat about Mr. Martin. Typically, the alcohol adds to loose lips and unkind gossip. But, no. That would be impossible with Mr. Martin. All the parents, and kids, were singing his praises. Mr. Martin's love for his staff and students is abundantly clear. His support of staff and student success is unwavering and I trust my children's education with him implicitly.

Thank you so much for making it through this lengthy email. I know you have a lot to read, but I could not let this week slide by without letting you know how much I appreciate our teachers and principal. Rancho Las Positas is hands down the best elementary school in Livermore. Am I biased? Sure. But, I also spent most of my education in Livermore (Sunset- GHS) and have worked locally for a long time. It is impossible to find such a supportive, down to earth and kind school community that even compares, and this is in no small part to its fantastic staff. Heck, even now, when I meet someone I think is a really good person, I am no longer shocked when they say they went to Rancho.

Go Raccoons.

Sincerely,

Adair Spence