

THE CLASSROOM BEAT



Teachers, parents can all be heroes

By Katie Gomez
Notre Dame School

Every day, heroes perform wonderful deeds. Unfortunately, they receive almost no recognition, other than from the person they saved or helped.

Anyone can be a hero. All you need is to be courageous, honest, and have a willingness to help someone in need. For some people, being a hero seems to come with their job, like policemen, firemen, doctors, military leaders and any other person who helps other people.

Teachers are some of the most unrecognized, influential heroes today. Teachers help kids and adults every day and almost never receive any honor or recognition. Few people realized how important teachers are. They educate people who find success in many important careers.

Teachers share such small details with their students, in every different subject, every day.

Police officers and firefighters are probably the heroes that receive the most recognition. They rescue people, solve crimes, and keep our communities safe.

These jobs are very dangerous, and few people want to do them. They both require special training and both require courage. I can only imagine how hard it would be to throw yourself into a fire or run after insane criminals. Nevertheless, these brave people give of themselves to the community in order for it to be safe.

I know a few policemen, and they are very dedicated to their jobs. They feel responsibility for people they don't even know.

Firemen may sit in the station a lot, but when duty calls, they are ready to do whatever is necessary to help. Whether rescuing a little girl's kitty from a tree, or saving an elderly person from a burning home.

My heroes are my parents. They help me whenever I need it, and they're always there for me. I know they love me and will do anything for me. I love them and I trust them, and I always will.

Everyone can be a hero, even you. Seeing an opportunity to help, then actually helping means that you were a hero to someone.

The author was a sixth-grader when this was submitted to the Solano County Reading Association competition in February 2007.

Should students listen to music in class?

By Patricia Kealy
Notre Dame School

Should students have music in class? An easy question, but not easily answered.

Most teachers would say of course not; most kids would say yes, I am one of those kids.

My opinion on music is different than what most people would expect, because I think that music helps kids' minds get to work!

Being one of the many junior high kids who do their homework with an iPod in their ear, I think that I get my work done quicker than having no music.

Teachers and parents would say "Quickness comes with the consequence of inaccuracy," but I believe that with the mp3 set at a good sound level, (not too loud) that it doesn't make a difference. I

think that it's not the actual music that makes us work faster, but it's the beat.

When kids ask their teachers for the permission of bringing mp3s to class, the teacher looks over the fact that it would keep them quiet, I mean that is what all teachers want their students to be. With the music, on, and their homework getting done, there is no time to talk; you can't hear their neighbor gabbing at you for the answer with their hearing focused to the music, so you're not persuaded to talk. The only sounds that the teacher could possibly hear would be the light rumbling of the music, and the scratching of a pen.

Whenever there is a pact like this, there must be guidelines. All students love to blare music in their ears, but in the classroom

kids would play music at a minimum level of the teacher's choosing. There should be no jumping up and singing and dancing to your favorite song, because it's downright embarrassing and distracting. I won't say that there should be a restriction against what kind of music the student should listen to because imagination is something that a teacher especially should care about.

It is hard to persuade someone on this particular matter, but I think I have served this cause justice. Teachers need to remember that a student's idea could be a great solution in the future. Follow your own beat!

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BY MARILYNN ANDERSON

Students are proud of the past school year that has led to graduation or moving on to the next school challenge. Today we congratulate young people who are celebrating graduation or the past year's accomplishments. We are mixing in a few kids' thoughts who are glad from the break from studies and are enjoying the summer months. Would you like to be included in a Link column? Contact: rdand@netscape.com Individuals or groups welcomed.

Take pride in your accomplishments

I've completed my classes at Sacramento City College and have transferred to Sac State where I'm enrolled as a business major. Sacramento City College has some classes in Davis, so that helps on gasoline if you live in Vacaville, Dixon, or Davis. I took a sign language class this past year that counts for the language requirement. The instructor is really fine and although the class was challenging, it was fun. One of the requirements was to attend social events for the deaf or hearing disabled.

Brad Thompson, Graduate, Notre Dame and Davis High

I graduated...YES! Just graduated from U.C. Davis with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dramatic Art with an emphasis in acting, and also a Political Science degree. Yes, a double major, can you believe it? Doing a double major takes a lot of time management, organization, and focus. I took 28 units in one 10-week period. One of my favorite

classes was a Chinese physical culture class where we learned about Chi energy and finding ways to express one's self through movement. I was the only Dramatic Arts major enrolled in that class among students from Chemical Engineering, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Chi energy runs through your body and is more than strength. You can learn to channel your Chi, even to the point of utilizing your breath. It's a very useful subject to understand. Yes, I made many friends at U.C. Davis and enjoyed my time there.

Erin Gabrielle Cookston, Graduate, U.C. Davis

I just finished third grade and I am most proud that I learned to write in cursive and that I filled up my whole reading chart. My mom says she laughs at me when I fall asleep at night with a book in my hand. Summer? It's great! I really like summer because that is when all the bugs come out and want to be your friend. I like swinging on my

swing set and coloring with sidewalk chalk and playing with my hula hoop and blowing bubbles, playing in the creek, and going swimming. I want to be a forensic scientist when I grow up, so I am practicing things like taking fingerprints. Maybe I will collect strands of hair and start a DNA notebook.

Genna Hepworth, Grade 3 graduate

I love pizza and I am celebrating graduating from third grade by going to Mary's Pizza Shack. The minute you walk in the door of Mary's Pizza Shack you smell all that delicious food.

Joseph Bouwman, Grade 4, Alamo

I just finished second grade and am going to like learning to write in cursive in third grade. The library has a summer reading program with fun things for kids to do. I've been to the community swimming pool four times in a row and I feel really good when I go off the high board because I can swim so well, now. People who can't swim can't go on the

diving board or go on the slide. They can play in the play set, though. You can take swimming lessons and graduate to the bigger things.

Natalie Czajkowski, Grade 3, Callison

I'm attending Sacramento State where I will graduate this fall. Yes, I graduated Vacaville High and spent some time at school in Chico and also Solano Community College. My best memories of Vaca High were in Miss Hopper's English class. Solano Community College is great for art classes. I really recommend it and especially enjoyed classes by Marc Pandone and Kate Delos. Sac State has a beautiful campus that is embedded in a forest of evergreen trees. Field Painting has been my favorite class. You take all of your equipment and paint outdoors in scenic settings. Some of the places we went were water locations in Auburn and Negro Bar. I love working on my degree in art.

Ilah Cookston, Sacramento State