

December 10, 2021

*Every blade of grass has its angel that bends over and whispers, "Grow, grow."  
- The Talmud*

This quote rests on the shelf adjacent to my desk, on the front of a thank you card given to me in 2007 by the parents of one of my three-year-old students. This card matters to me. I remember forming quite a strong relationship with the student and being excited every single day to watch him grow. And I remember never really knowing what his parents thought of me, of our class, and of the work we as teachers do. Then this card showed up, and it was clear as day.

I urge you to express your appreciation to your child's teachers this season by writing them a card.

Tell them they matter. Describe to them how your child is excited for school each morning. Explain how your child has grown under their watchful eye. Share with them that your child plays "teacher" at home and mimics their every move. Let them know how hard it is to give over your child to another adult every day, yet how much trust and faith you have in your teachers.

Your feedback is what keeps us going. You are our strongest motivator. That thank you card I received back in 2007 became a mantra of mine; it has never run out of that motivational juice I need in my work. Whenever I find myself frustrated or running out of steam, I turn around, read that card, and smile. And then I get back to work, reminded that everything we do as teachers truly matters.

Provide your child's teachers with that same motivation. Show them how much they matter to your child and your family.

Please join me in thanking our classroom teachers for the love and devotion they bring to our children's lives each and every day. Especially this year, when schools [across the country](#) are experiencing [staffing shortages](#) -- I invite you to write a thank you card for your teachers before our Winter Break. Small expressions of gratitude have a big impact. They are what really keep us going.

Shabbat shalom,  
Noah