Kids Talk About: What Makes a Great Teacher

What makes a great teacher?

We asked more than 9,000 kids and teens, and here are the top three answers:

- The teacher explains things well and makes the subject interesting. (33%)
- The teacher is funny and has a lot of personality. (25%)
- The teacher is interested in what students have to say. (9%)

Other answers rated high, depending on the age of the student. About 3,000 teens took the poll and 13% said they appreciate teachers who go beyond the classroom and help with stuff other than classwork, like career planning.

About 6,000 younger kids took the poll and 25% said they like a teacher who's patient, understanding, and willing to answer questions. Charlotte said her favorite teacher is known as "Mrs. Frog" because she does a good frog impression. And Mrs. Frog is very encouraging. "She always gives you 'Good Job' notes when you do something that impresses her," Charlotte said.

Chayna loved the way her 5th grade teacher joked all the time. And she knew when to look the other way. "When my friend and I were passing notes, he looked at me but the thing is he IGNORED us passing notes!!"

The poll also gave teachers a say, asking "What Makes a Great Student?" About 3,600 teachers said these were the top qualities in kids and teens:

- The student is willing to try his/her best every day. (26%)
- The student is willing to ask questions when he/she doesn't understand. (14%)
- The student is polite and respectful to the teacher. (14%)
- Do you do those things every day? If not, maybe you should start!

Teachers also praised students who are positive, organized, and kind to other students. Kids may like funny teachers, but do teachers like students with a sense of humor? Only 7% said yes, and they included a condition: They said they like students who are funny, but not disruptive.

Want to create a great relationship with your teacher? Try these tips:

- Work hard every day by completing homework and participating in class.
- Ask questions whenever you don't understand something. If you feel shy during class, ask after class or set up a time to meet.
- Be polite and respectful all the time. That means "please" and "thank you," of course.
- Also follow class rules such as listening when another student is talking, taking turns, or raising a hand instead of shouting out.

You'll find it easier to be teacher-pleasing and do your best if you're well-fed, well-rested, and organized, so don't forget these back-to-school rules:

Sleep: Get to bed on time. You should feel rested when you wake up.

Breakfast: You'll have more energy and do better in school if you eat a good breakfast.

Cheat sheets: Write down important info so you don't forget locker combinations, class schedules, bus numbers, etc.

Schedule: Use a wall calendar or personal planner to record important dates, such as when assignments are due, tests will be given, extracurricular practices and rehearsals will be held, etc.

Night-before routines: Get organized the night before by setting out everything you need. Homework and books should be put in their backpacks by the door. Pack your lunch and have it in the fridge (or set aside your lunch money). Your whole outfit — shirt, pants, socks, shoes, belt — should be in your bedroom ready to go. Then you can dress and dash. You don't want to be late, especially for the first day of school!

Reviewed by: Mary L. Gavin, MD
Date reviewed: August 2012
May is Teacher Appreciation Month!

Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week

As the national celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week has just reminded us, we must take time to continually acknowledge the many contributions from teachers to invest in our children, from cradle to career, to shape our country’s future as a global leader in education. Throughout the week, stakeholders, communities and schools found unique and meaningful ways to celebrate our nation’s top educators.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) hosted a series of events, including a Google Hangout entitled, “Celebrating African American Teachers in the Classroom” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdM8km-mm-uw&feature=youtu.be), at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The panel, moderated by NBC anchor Tamron Hall, was comprised of African American educators from across the country and senior officials from the U.S. Department of Education. I had the pleasure of participating in this robust conversation, on topics ranging from quality early childhood education to effective partnerships with families, college readiness and the use of technology to support African American educational excellence.

This panel was notable not just for its use of social media to bring together a panel of passionate, well-informed education advocates, but because the entire panel of speakers was African American males, including two educators: Jamal Graham (7th-grade math—Eagle Academy for Young Men in Queens), and Wesley Baker (middle-school social studies—KIPP Truth Academy in Dallas), TX; two Department of Education officials including myself and Jim Shelton, assistant deputy secretary for innovation and improvement, and Dr. Ivory A. Toldson, Howard University, Department of Education.

Given that African American males only make up 2% of the teacher workforce, the participation of the two young male teachers spoke volumes—both about the importance of cultivating and supporting a workforce reflective of the students attending our nation’s public schools, about the work required to ensure we achieve that goal. The Administration will continue to partner with community leaders to improve teacher preparation programs and training a new generation of minority students, especially African American males, to teach in our nation’s public schools.

Dr. Toldson’s research counts a persistent myth about African American males, by showing that there are more than 600,000 more black men in college than in jail, and his work to strengthen the pipeline of minority male educators provided a framework for the panel to discuss some of the challenges and opportunities facing African American educators.

As teachers, Graham and Baker shared the creative ways they incorporate technology into their lessons and communication with parents and families.

Jim Shelton recognized that to be most effective, education funding must be targeted to programs and solutions that will serve the greatest number of students.

I stressed the importance of ensuring African American children have access to high quality early learning programs like those included in President Obama’s Fiscal Year 2014 budget request—including high-quality home visiting, child care, Early Head Start, Head Start and public preschool programs and services, for a total investment of over $90 billion over ten years.

While the panel could have continued for hours, what resonated the most was the fact that as a community, we must make a concerted effort to support our teachers and leaders, to volunteer, engage, contribute to efforts to ensure all of our children and youth have the skills and opportunities needed to succeed in the 21st century global workforce and build a stronger economy for American families.

Each of us must contribute if we are to meet President Obama’s ambitious goal of America again having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Community groups and faith-based organizations have a pivotal role, stakeholders need to have proactive conversations at home and at school, and resources need to be shared and allocated widely to have the greatest impact, especially for those most in need of support. Only by working together can we eradicate the opportunity gap that persists for too many of our children, so that all students receive an education that prepares them for higher learning and high-demand careers in our fast-changing economy.

Great teachers make great classrooms. So don’t wait until next year’s Teachers Appreciation Week to thank a teacher—thank a teacher right now. Our future is not just in their hands but in all of ours: what will you do?

http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/05/celebrating-teachers-appreciation-week/

David Johns is the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

PEATC Workshops and Events - May 2014

Monday, May 12, 2014 – “Dreams For Kids DC” webinar by Glenda Fu, Executive Director, Dreams for Kids DC, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm; Register here: http://cts.vresp.com/c/?PEATC/bcf70fa3a3/cb58e3f55/b1414b8b0e/cid=er5c4zkjw8gi

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – “Positive Behavioral Supports” workshop, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, sponsored by Arc of Northern Shenandoah Valley, location at the Grace Lutheran Church Outreach Center, 26 W. Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA 22601. Register by contacting Nichole Pangle at (540) 665-0461 or arcnsv@thearcofsvsn.net.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – “Pláticas - ¡Hablemos de la sección 504! / Let’s talk about section 504! - IN SPANISH ONLY, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, PEATC Office, 100 N. Washington St., Suite 234, Falls Church, VA 22046. Please register at 703-923-0010 or partners@peatc.org, or join us online at: https://cc.readytalk.com/r/m6phv8yuty6&com.

Wednesday, May 14 to Friday, May 16, 2014 – “Parents as Collaborative Leaders” Regional Training, Region I. Location and time information will be provided to accepted applicants. For more information or to apply, please go to: http://www.peatc.org/newsmanager/news_article.cgi?news_id=567&no_popup=0.

Saturday, May 17, 2014 – “Understanding Special Education” Workshop by TASK/PEATC. 9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Holiday Inn Express & Suites Rocky Mount, 395 Old Franklin Turnpike, Rocky Mount, VA 24151. Registration required; contact taskforkids@hotmail.com or 276-979-0408.

Thursday, May 22, 2014 – PEATC Cafecito — KEEN Greater DC – ¡Donde todos los niños pueden jugar!, 7pm-8:15pm, Location: PEATC Office, 100 N. Washington Street, Suite 234, Falls Church, VA 22046. To register, contact PEATC at 703-923-0010 or ancalle@peatc.org.

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 to Friday, May 30, 2014 – “Parents as Collaborative Leaders” Regional Training, Region III. Location and time information will be provided to accepted applicants. For more information or to apply, please go to: http://www.peatc.org/newsmanager/news_article.cgi?news_id=567&no_popup=0.
When you have an exceptional teacher, you want to honor him or her in an extraordinary way. Anyone who has been teaching for a few years already has an extensive collection of assorted items decorated with apples. If you really appreciate your child's teacher, you want to go above and beyond the ordinary gift. Here are a few creative ideas.

Words from the Heart: Many teachers say that the most precious gift they ever received was a heartfelt note from a parent about how the teacher impacted a child's life. This costs nothing but can be priceless to the teacher who receives it. Try to think of specific things the teacher said or did that helped your child to learn more or to become a better person. Put them in a handwritten letter and deliver it to your child's teacher.

Treat a Day: Over the course of a week, put a small treat with a note in your teacher's box each day. She'll have a surprise to look forward to each morning!

Monday: a Payday candy bar with a note: "Thought you could use an extra payday."
Tuesday: Junior Mints, or any other mint candy with a note: "You mint so much to us this year." Wednesday: A package of nuts with a note: "We're nuts about our teacher." Thursday: Hershey's Hugs with a note: "Hugs for our favorite teacher." Friday: A candle with a note: "You have brightened our child's life."

Scrapbooks: I have seen tough teachers cry when presented with a well-made scrapbook. Assemble pictures of each child, class parties and field trips. Collect thank you notes from each student, and put them together with the photos in a pre-made photo album or scrapbook. Not only can the teacher remember a special year, she can also share the scrapbook with her friends and family, to show them the significance of her work.

Dinner: Do you think that your child's teacher is exhausted at the end of the day? Do you think that when she gets home, no matter how tired she is, her kids are asking what's for dinner, just like your kids do? Give a teacher a break with either a home-cooked meal or a restaurant gift certificate.

Shirts: This teacher gift will never collect dust because it will be worn again and again. For one day a week, your favorite teacher's morning routine will go more quickly because she will not have to think about what to wear to school. Many companies make teacher shirts with colorful graphics and pro-teacher messages in a variety of styles and colors.

Public Praise: The difficult work that teachers do often goes unnoticed and unappreciated. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about the wonderful things that your favorite teacher does for his students.

Not only will the teacher enjoy the letter (especially the copy you put in his box at school), but he will probably receive congratulations from others in your community who read the letter!

Books: Almost every teacher loves books and reading. There are many types of books which make great teacher appreciation gifts: inspirational teacher books, picture books about special teachers, humorous school stories, and collections of poems about school. A teacher can look back on a gift book throughout the year when she needs encouragement on a tough day.

Magazines: All teachers want to encourage students to read more. Often they stretch their own paycheck to buy books and other reading materials to have on hand for students who finish work early or need extra reading practice. There are many educational magazines that a teacher would love to receive for the classroom (Arthur, Ranger Rick, Kids Discover, or National Geographic Kids, to name a few). And this gift keeps giving for a whole school year.

World Changers: Many organizations sell gifts which can change the world. You can adopt a zoo animal or donate a chicken to a third world family, all in the name of your child's teacher. Often these organizations will provide certificates and newsletters to the teacher, adding educational value to a gift that's already heartwarming.

Wild Ideas: For the teacher who has absolutely everything, try something wild and crazy to let him know how much you appreciate him. Put a bright pink flamingo in his front yard, with a sign around the flamingo's neck saying: "We were tickled pink to have Mr. Smith for a teacher this year." Won't that be a great Monday morning surprise?

By Cari Young, a mom and former teacher, who is working to transform education through teacher appreciation, with creative teacher appreciation events and exceptional teacher gift ideas at http://www.classroom-teacher-gifts.com/. You may freely reprint this article on your website or in your newsletter provided this courtesy notice and the author name and URL remain intact.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Cari_Young
Realizar homenajes públicos organizados por PTA

Un pasaje del artículo “Reconocimiento a los Maestros: Ideas para actividades” del PTA Nacional

Organice un desayuno o almuerzo especial para los maestros y el personal de su escuela. Si hay espacio suficiente, invite a padres, miembros del consejo directivo, superintendente y personal del distrito escolar, y personalidades importantes de la comunidad a participar del homenaje como muestra de reconocimiento a los maestros.

Cree una tarjeta gigante de agradecimiento a los maestros y exhibala en la comunidad escolar. Coloque marcadores junto a la tarjeta gigante para que los miembros de la comunidad puedan agregar sus mensajes de agradecimiento.

Inicie una sección con artículos sobre maestros en el tablón de anuncios de la escuela o de la biblioteca, donde cada semana o mes se dé a conocer el perfil de un maestro diferente. Incluya citas de declaraciones del maestro y sobre su persona, así como su fotografía y sus antecedentes, pasatiempos y filosofía acerca de la educación. Como alternativa, puede publicar entrevistas con maestros o artículos acerca de los logros de los maestros en el boletín informativo escolar o de la PTA. Contemple la posibilidad de que sean los alumnos los que entrevisten a los maestros y escriban los artículos. Publique estos artículos periódicamente durante el año.


Public tributes through PTA

An excerpt from the National PTA article, “PTA Teacher Appreciation Week Activity Ideas”

Host a special breakfast or lunch for your school's teachers and staff. If space allows, invite parents, school board members, the district superintendent, district personnel, and prominent community leaders to join you at the event in showing appreciation for teachers.

Create a giant teacher thank-you card for display in the school community. Place markers by the card so community members can add their words of thanks.

Start a "teacher feature" on a school or library bulletin board.

Each week or month, profile a different teacher. Include quotes by and about the teacher, as well as the teacher's picture, background, hobbies, and philosophy of education. Alternatively, use the school or PTA newsletter to publish interviews with teachers and stories about teachers' accomplishments. Consider having students conduct the interviews and write the stories. Publish stories throughout the year.