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Duane Moret Letter

Duane L. Moret

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March 30, 1974

Dear Dr. E,

Just last night I took a stroll down memory lane through use of my college annuals and recalled the many experiences that I was allowed to experience for which you were responsible.

Whether you were aware or not, I was the perfect example of an introverted farmboy from Minnesota before coming to college and being involved with drama activities. Through drama and Choral Readers I began to "come out of my shell" and realize that I might possibly have something to offer the world.

Today I'm principal of Benito Juarez Elementary School in Cerritos California and administering a school of 565 kids and a staff of 58.

Our school is using the British Primary "open classroom" approach where students are allowed to make choices for themselves as they pursue their activities for the day in a relaxed atmosphere of animals, plants, and lounging furniture rather than rows of desks with the head master in front of the room. I am reminded of a phrase which has been a part of my educational process since college and that is, "Show, don't tell it." Sound familiar?

Last year was my last year in the classroom and we ended the year with a production of "Tom Sawyer" which was a smash hit. We had five day-time performances and one night.

What really made its success amazing to all was the kind of kids I was using for the production. I transferred to this particular school mid-year because they had run off two teachers since the beginning and they thought I might be able to get them back into effectiveness and struggle I did to do so. Anyway, this outlet enabled the worst offender in the classroom, Bob Hurley, to channel his efforts into something constructive in being Tom in the play and did he shine. Last reports from his parents tell me that he is still holding on to this newly-found image.

Enough about me and the far reaching effects of your influence on me. I sincerely thank you for each opportunity that you gave me to grow and become a better person as you so aptly dealt with all of our idiocyncracies and antics. I'm surprised you made it through to retirement when thinking back to the many upheavals we put you through.

I really hope that you realize the many lives you have made better for having known you and can relax for a few years now and enjoy the fruits of your work so aptly done.

God's richest blessing to you as you live out your life in the fulness you taught us to enjoy.



Much Love,

Duane

Duane L. Moret