

Children's Letters starting in Third Grade 8-30-24

Starting in the third grade, children begin a tradition of writing annual letters to each parent and grandparent they are requesting a letter from, and the annual writing of a letter to themselves about their thoughts on letters received and their own goals.

In their letters, students ask for two things:

- **The Parent's Dreams for Them:** Children ask their parents to share their hopes and dreams for their future, providing an opportunity for parents to express their deepest wishes and support for their child's journey.
- **A Story from the Parent's Life:** Students also request a personal story from their parent's life that they want the child to know. This story can be an inspiring moment, a life lesson, or a cherished memory, offering a glimpse into the parents' past.

Once the letters are written and given to the children, they are immediately read. Following this, each child meets with the respective parent to read the letter again together. This shared reading experience fosters open communication, allowing the child to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the letter's content. These annual meetings are designed to grow into valuable events, creating cherished memories and strengthening both the parent-child relationships and grandparent-child relationships.

After the letters have been read and discussed, they are carefully placed into a self-addressed envelope prepared by each student. **Before sealing the envelope, each student writes a letter to themselves about their thoughts on each letter received, and their own plans for their own future.** This letter is then placed into the envelope, and it is sealed.

These envelopes are then stored by the Time Capsule Postmaster in the Time Capsule Vault. Here, they remain for eleven months, securely housed alongside the letters of all the other students in the class.

As the next year's letter-writing preparations begin, the Time Capsule Postmaster retrieves the stored letters to return them to the student to be read again. The annual cycle continues. This annual letter-writing project not only provides a platform for heartfelt communication but also serves as a time capsule of memories and aspirations that children can look back on in the future.

In summary, this project is more than just an exercise in letter writing; it is a cherished tradition that bridges generations, nurtures understanding, and creates a legacy of love and connection between parents and their children.