

April 2, 2009

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Ms. Susan Laux

Mrs. Mary Oliver

Ms. Deborah Burger

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Ms. Karen Connor

Mr. Christian Morales

Mrs. Dru Stith

Ms. Carly Gonzalez

Mr. John Mullet

Mr. Mick Wiley

Dear Teachers,

It was almost four years ago to this day that Jase first arrived at Prentice, and little could I have imagined then that I would be writing such a letter of gratitude as I write today. Like many of the students entering Prentice after a swift downward spiral of academic failure, Jase arrived with a shattered self-esteem and a long-lost enthusiasm for learning. But I will never forget my surprise during his very first week at Prentice, when it suddenly seemed as if he was walking ten feet tall: there was a lilt in his gait and a smile on his face like I hadn't seen in years. Afraid I might be imagining it – like wishful thinking – I asked my husband about it. He reassured me that what I saw was what he saw as well. Our happy boy was back!

Each and every one of you has played a part in supporting Jase's journey from tears to triumph. For those who may not have heard, I am thrilled to report that Jase will be attending Sage Hill School starting next fall. I truly can't find the proper words to tell you how much I, my husband, Jase, his big sister Claire and little sister Celeste, all appreciate your precious gift of teaching. Thank you from the depths of my soul.

Jase is very excited about life after Prentice, although he is sweetly nostalgic as well. He will miss you, but I'm certain you won't have heard the last of him simply because he is moving on to high school. I'm glad that his experience at Prentice is such that he leaves with a bit of sadness. That seems to be a good thing in this case.

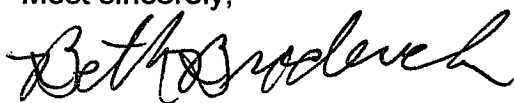
I was going to encourage Jase to write you all notes to express his appreciation personally, but as you all know, he can often be a man of few words. After thinking about it and realizing how much I have to say on the subject, I thought perhaps it would be best that I do this myself. But I want you to know how Jase is planning to honor you.

As we went to the different high schools for visitations and information sessions, I was very impressed at the consistent positive feedback I heard from teachers and administrators alike, whenever we told them our son was at Prentice. They roundly praised the school, and mentioned how well-prepared students were who came to them following graduation from Prentice. It was clearly a high compliment to the school and the students you have sent out into the world. When I shared this information with Jase, he immediately recognized that he had an opportunity – indeed, an obligation – to leave a legacy that builds upon that positive perception which was already in place for his advantage.

Jase is committed to continuing to be the best student he can be – not only for himself, but for the other Prentice students who will follow behind him. Hopefully they too will benefit with a little extra lift from the gust created by wings that you gave to him.

Thank you for giving him the chance to fly.

Most sincerely,



Beth Broderick

bcc: Mrs. Carol Clark ✓

Mrs. Karen Lerner