

In the third grade my oldest son was doing ok in school. He faced all the usual challenges one would expect in a reasonably well regarded suburban elementary school, maybe even dismiss, but his performance didn't seem to match his ability. Quite honestly, after years of parental struggle of trying to get the right education formula of a little more of this and little less of that, he just didn't seem to be getting there. And 'there' was not some measure imposed by the parental ego needing to be satisfied by the straight A student, 'there' would be the place where learning was nurtured, the tools to understand the world around us were provided and the bright spirit of that boy could bloom.

We found 'there' here at this particular school with this special mix of teachers, students and families. And for this we are grateful. It is my Thanks Giving to say out loud that if it were not for this place, the world might have lost another bright light to the limitations ignorance would likely have imposed.

Here I give all due credit to my wife, as we have been fortunate to have found the right solution for the specific and very different needs of all three of our children. These three young people each benefit in a different way, based on different skill sets and personalities. The system does more to nurture the child than merely to teach to them.

We have taken less a premeditated path to having these three children come here but more based on what is appropriate to them. Maria Montessori gave a gift to the world in her commitment to develop this method of education. The world is readily becoming more aware of the bounty she has shared.

We are but one of many (most) Montessori families that give thanks to Maria (if I can call her by her first name), to the teachers and administration and the generosity of the families that have come before us. For the brilliance that shines from the minds of these young people, that are given greater sight, deeper vision and a brighter future as a result of the generosity that is this community - we are grateful. Thanks Giving is an appropriate tribute.

Matt Chamberlin