

fourth



parent service
ORGANIZATION

In lieu of holiday gifts for faculty and staff, we invite all North Phoenix families to participate in this annual holiday giving campaign (formerly Snowstorm).

Show your heartfelt appreciation by contributing a **one-time monetary gift** to be distributed evenly among faculty and staff at our December Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.
Suggested donation: \$55/student

Deadline: November 30th



greatful hearts
ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVING

Get to Know Fourth Grade!

Ms. Hunter, 4A Lead

Helped you become **the person you are today...**

I'm grateful for my dad. When I was a baby in a stroller, he was a single dad in grad school. He would take me to the university library with him and would read aloud from his textbooks. As I grew older, I remember listening to historical books-on-tape or classical music in the car. My childhood home always had bookshelves brimming with books. Because of him, I have a deep-rooted love of learning.

Favorite book to read...

My favorite book to read is *King Arthur* with my students.

Mr. Rigas, 4A Asst

Favorite childhood memories **involving Thanksgiving...**

Last Thanksgiving, the water at my grandparents' house stopped working, which was a serious problem because we had to clean up after fourteen of us gorged on our dinner. My grandfather took charge, ordering my three brothers, two cousins and me to find as many buckets as possible and fill them up at the nearby spring. Mind you, this was in Pennsylvania in freezing temperatures.

Of course, at 92 years old, he wasn't going to help us get water, but just command us to do the dirty work. So, we found the buckets and got as much water as possible. This task was slightly upsetting to us, the grandchildren, at the time, but looking back we're incredibly thankful my grandfather is still with us – still capable of ordering us around in his nineties.

Favorite **childhood memory...**

My favorite childhood memory is going to the local baseball clinic in town every summer. Every weekday, from 10-12 in the morning and 1-3 in the afternoon, my brothers and I made the five-minute walk from our house to the little league field to...

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Mr. Rigas Continued

...play TBG (baseball with tennis balls) and flip (the greatest game ever invented), spend time with our friends, and drink slushies and eat Airheads. The clinic became so beloved because of the man who ran it – Steve Brink. Steve made every minute at the baseball field fun by sharing his love for the game and his enthusiastic personality with all of us.

Ms. Lefaive, 4B Lead

Grateful to have learned about yourself over the past year...

I am exceedingly grateful to have discovered my love for classical education, great books, history, and the mission of Great Hearts!

Favorite book to read...

Since coming to Great Hearts last year, I have read nearly all of the classics that I missed as a child. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* and *Anne of Green Gables* are my favorites!

Ms. Roadruck, 4B Asst

Helped you become **the person you are today**...

My mother – she taught me to be independent and to stand up and speak for myself.

Makes you laugh the most...

A baby's laugh.

Mr. Taylor, 4C Lead

Helped you become **the person you are today**...

All my baseball coaches (college). I would thank them for never accepting mediocrity. It made me strive to always do my best of be the best at any task in front of me.

Favorite subject in school...

Math or History.

Ms. Nahar, 4C Asst

Helped you become **the person you are today**...

My husband and I met ten years ago and I can honestly say that I am radically different because of the man that he is. His amazing character has challenged me time and time again to be the best version of myself that I can be. His strengths compliment my weakness and he encourages me to persevere through hard times. He loves me when I'm unlovable and he is an amazing father to our children. I just want to thank him for marrying me.

Favorite childhood memory...

Boating on the river with my family and camping on the beach.

"The real gift of gratitude is that
the more grateful you are, the **more**
present you become."

- Robert Holden

Ms. Raper, 4D Lead

Something witnessed recently that **made you feel a sense of wonder or awe**...

My youngest child, Tanner, has Ataxic Cerebral Palsy. Because of this, we were fortunate enough to experience a wish trip through The Dream Factory of Arizona. It was one of the most incredible experiences I have ever had. When you are sent on a wish trip to Disney World, you stay at a resort called Give Kids the World. GKTW is a special place that only families on wish trips are allowed to go to.

It was the most incredible thing to see my son, who has always been different from other kids, feel like he was finally normal. For me personally, I found joy in the acceptance that I found at GKTW. Every parent that I saw has traveled a different journey to arrive at a wish trip, but at the end of the day, the feelings and emotions we have all felt for our children have been the same. The volunteers at GKTW spend their time doing everything possible to make each family, sibling, and wish kid feel special and important. There were moments of awe and wonder around every corner of this trip!

Ms. Raper Continued

Favorite **childhood memory**...

My favorite childhood memory is spending summers at Four Winds Westward Ho. Each summer, I would pack my bags and head to the San Juan Islands in Washington State for four weeks of camp. I did this from the time I was nine until I was seventeen!

Four Winds Westward Ho is a unique camp that was founded in the 1930s. There is no electricity in the cabins, no sugar, and during my time growing up, no walk-mans! The only way we were able to communicate with our families and friends was through old-fashioned snail mail! We wore uniforms that hadn't changed since 1930 and lived in a cabin with seven to nine other girls and a counselor. Camp was a place where you could be yourself, try new things, and even grow up a little bit!

Ms. Robb, 4D Asst

Helped you become **the person you are today**...

Taylor Marshall, who I worked with last year, always had a positive solution for problems. I'm grateful to her for consistently building me up with positive feedback to make me a more confident teacher.

Makes you **laugh the most**...

I recently saw the play *Twelfth Night*, and poor Malvolio the steward had me rolling in the aisles.



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