

Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)

Thank You for Making a Difference

'13 years and going strong' – thanks to NWTTA partnerships with Northern News Services Limited, First Air, and the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture & Employment

Enjoy our collection of excerpts gathered from **over 14,000 nominations** sent in over the years by NWT students for their teachers.

These words are powerful, yet often left unspoken. They speak to all educators...

- ✓ *Committed to the delivery of quality education*
- ✓ *Passionate about what they do*
- ✓ *Dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children*

'Thank you' can be expressed many ways and for many reasons...

- *"... likes old songs but she is still fun." (Age 9)*
- *" ___ was my favourite teacher because she loved apples." (Age 9)*
- *"... is the most nicest teacher I've ever had." (Age 11)*
- *"... is special because she cares about us." (Age 9)*
- *"My favourite teacher is ___ because she always help me when I get stuck on some of the numbers on my math." (Age 8)*
- *"... helps us open our mind to new things." (Age 8)*
- *"... made me a better student in grade three. ... read 'Sharlits Web' and we watched the movie and it was very cool to her students." (Age 9)*
- *"... takes us to visit the people at the Northern Lights Special Care Home. ... wants us to respect our elders." (Age 12)*
- *"... doesn't give out boring 'asinmints'." (Age 10)*
- *"... But I know this ___ is a great teacher ... this is the first class I've been in that a class gets a turtle named Untal." (Age 12)*



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association • Email: nwtta@nwtta.ca • Website: www.nwtta.nt.ca

'Thank you for Making a Difference' excerpts from over 14,000 nominations

Email the NWTTA for more information about this initiative

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- "... has the right kind of books on the right level." (Age 9)
- "... taught me a lot and changed my views towards the science world" (Age 17)
- "... cares, ... gives 100% and helps anyone who asks for help." (Age 17)
- "___ is my favourite teacher because she makes people want to learn." (Age 9)
- "___ was nice, ... broke down everything easy. If I didn't get something she helped me get it fast." (Age 11)
- "... teaches her class some hard questions." (Age 12)
- "... still thinks I am a good child." (Age 10)
- "... has shown me how easy and rewarding it was to do my work as well as study for my tests." (Age 16)
- "... helps you if your stuck and she also doesn't let you give up, she challenges you to the best of your ability
and helps you succeed." (Age 11)
- "... had a unique teaching style and was always concerned about our education." (Age 12)
- "... I am very happy he became a teacher. He is making a big difference in his student's lives." (Age 17)
- "... One word expressions, Kermit singing voices and desk slapping are definitely things that define___ to me."
(Age 16)
- "... was very interesting to me." (Age 10)
- "... taught me how to spell chocolate." (Age 8)
- "... I can't believe that ___ wears glasses." (Age 9)
- "... wants me to be as smart as my grandma." (Age 9)
- "... If there was more teachers like that in the world we would all be genius!" (Age 10)
- "... You learn what's right from wrong while getting higher grades." (Age 12)



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- "I want to thank ___ because he tried to teach me everyday." (Age 13)
- "... is passionate about education, ... puts the limits t the test to let the students know they will accomplish."
• (Age 18)
- "... I actually enjoy and pay attention to every one of his classes." (Age 12)
- "... and for what I want to be when I grow up I must have good math scores." (Age 13)
- "... plus he is really cool for his age." (Age 12)
- "... (Age 12)
- "... has a heart of a teenager and she knows what its like growing up." (Age 13)
- "... has taught me that things get done well through hard work and dedication, two things prominent in his teaching style." (Age 16)
- "___'s enthusiasm is contagious. Its hard not to be interested in her subjects because her passion is so evident." (Age 16)
- "___'s classes were always entertaining and made learning fun!" (Age 14)
- "... believes that everyone has potential and can succeed." (Age 16)
- "... His good attitude and constant excitement make him a great teacher." (Age 15)
- "... does so much for the P.E. program and a lot of his work goes unnoticed. ... spends so much of this time not only teaching gym classes, but also supervising practices after school hours." (Age 16)
- "... The kids respect him because he shows respect to us." (Age 10)
- "... makes you feel good about your work and encourages you to keep doing a good job." (Age 10)
- "... helped me by making things I don't like fun." (Age 11)



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- "... taught me that its OK to be yourself ...encouraged me when I thought that something was impossible." (Age 12)
- "... is always supportive and helpful, to me and all the students ... is a positive role model in life." (Age 18)
- "... I learned so much from him as a teacher and a friend." (Age 17)
- "... motivates students and is always there to help." (Age 16)
- "... taught me how education is important and valuable in life and I just want to say thank you." (Age 16)
- "... teaches us with math to help us learn better. ... helps us to read better and faster." (Age 8)
- "... helps us and ... has power." (Age 14)
- "... is a great person and when it comes down to school, ___ is not foolin' around." (Age 17)
- "... takes her time and still teaches us what we need to know for grade 7." (Age 11)
- "I like doing my math with him because he makes it interesting." (Age 8)
- "She encourages everyone to do their best at whatever they do." (Age 12)
- "_____ always goes the extra mile, he does everything in his power to make the work we do interesting. He even made an online database for us to do our novel study on!" (Age 12)
- "_____ helps me to spell words and she helps me warm my math." (Age not given)
- "She did not give up on me and now I am able to do my work with confidence." (Age 12)
- "Thank you for teaching us to spell lots of stuff and our numbers." (Age 6)
- "She's a great teacher because she helps us read our books and makes sure we don't get lost when going to the gym." (Age 7)



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- *“_____ believed in all of us and helped us to be proud of what we do. She encourages us to do our best and to have fun.” (Age 9)*
- *“I’ve improved in all my studies because of her. There is something about her that makes me want to do better in all of my assignments.” (Age 11)*
- *“She helps her students whenever they need help, especially when the work is verbs!” (Age 9)*
- *“When I’m sad she makes me feel better. She is the best ever so so so cool.” (Age 11)*
- *“She helps me master long division.” (Age 10)*
- *“We have learned a lot about fair play and taking turns from her.” (Age 5)*
- *“The best thing about her is she loves teaching everyone in my class and even in the bigger classes.” (Age 10)*
- *“_____ challenges us all by setting reachable goals for us and having high expectations.” (Age 12)*
- *“ He shows dedication towards his job. He has never been late or missed a day of school for over 10 years. He has a tremendous amount of school spirit and leadership which makes him the best principal I’ve ever had.” (Age 15)*
- *“She gives her time to help people at lunch and has organized a choir. She helps you fix your instrument whenever you need it.” (Age 12)*
- *“She is one of those special teachers that strives for excellence and makes my peers and myself better students because of it.” (Age 12)*
- *“I choose this educator because she goes to extreme limits to help us and to make school an enjoyable place to be.” (Age 12)*
- *“Not only is she respectful, understanding and easy going, _____ is a very knowledgeable and an effective educator. She makes school work easy for me to understand, taking things step by step, and treats me as a good friend, giving me advice, as well as letting me get my work done. (Age 11)*
- *“_____ taught me how to be organized and well prepared.” (Age 11)*
- *“_____ showed me how she doesn’t give up even when things get difficult. She keeps on trying. Most of all, she didn’t give up on me.” (Age 7)*



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- “_____ made me push myself to the limits of everything and encouraged me to do things and made me neater.” (Age 11)
- “_____ tries to make classes fun especially math class the most boring class in eternity.” (Age 11)
- “_____ is a caring, understanding teacher if anyone at all needs help you can always count on him to be there.” (Age 12)
- “_____ is as wise as an owl, and she has some extraordinary useful invisible eyes at the back of her head because if she is writing something and a kid gets hurt, she can tell what has happened.”
- (Age 9)
- “I learned how to do my work properly and to ask questions from _____.” (Age 12)
- “_____ knows about everything in french and she gets you excited about middle immersion.” (Age 9)
- “I wanted to do this for a teacher named _____ because I look up to her and I want to be just like her.” (Age 9)
- “I nominated _____ because she was always supportive of my work and always had a joke or something nice to say.” (Age 10)
- “I nominated _____ because no matter where or when I see her she has something nice to say.” (Age 10)
- “Its fun because she knows when we have problems with and she organizes a program after school for help with our questions and problems.” (Age 13)
- “He is nice and is a good rol motl (role model) for kids and kind to kids that’s why he is a good teacher.” (Age 6)
- “Last year I failed my grade 6 and now I’m a student star getting honors on hard work. And that thank you goes to _____ for all the good things that he does for the school and especially me!” (Age 12)
- “_____ taught me how to do poetry. At first I thought it was going to be boring but he made it very fun.” (Age 9)
- “The way _____ changed my life is be making me excited about learning and showing me ways to learn better.” (Age 10)



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- *“Being in French Immersion is a big challenge, but she gave me a strong base of the French language so I could be successful. I find myself still referring to what she had taught me. She always expected my classmates and me to try our hardest and pushed us harder than we thought we could go.” (Age 13)*
- *“So far with her help I am reaching my goal. My goal is to be the best I can be.” (Age 10)*
- *“_____ always has work ready for us. She has an alphabet carpet and a cool calendar.” (Age 5)*
- *“He taught me how to pick good choices. He helped me do things I never thought I could do. He helped me with work and helped me be the best I can be.” (Age 9)*
- *“She taught me respect and she helps me with my homework.” (Age 11)*
- *“Thank you _____ for making a difference by making me get out of my shell and join the class.” (Age 10)*
- *“Thank you for giving me a chance with my homework. You never gave me a zero for each late assignment.” (Age 10)*
- *“She helps me to be clean and organized. You make my day light up lots.” (Age 10)*
- *“She puts us to our limits. Everyday she puts a little bit of fun into our classes, by making a mistake or two ‘cause, hey, no one’s perfect. That is why I would like to thank you.” (Age 10)*
- *“She is the one who taught me fractions. She is a very generous person to all students. She taught us our minds.” (Age 9)*
- *“She helped me master long division.” (Age 10)*
- *“Thanks to her I get all A’s on my report card.” (Age 10)*
- *“Because he teaches you everything you need to know about technology, and if your computer or Gameboy is broken, he can fix it!” (Age 9)*
- *“_____ taught me almost a whole different language in less than a year. I’m glad he’s my teacher.” (Age 10)*
- *“She is so cool! She makes us feel so very young. She is the best.” (Age 10)*



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- “_____ was very nice to me in kindergarten. I was scared to go to school and she made me feel very happy to be in school.” (Age 6)
- “I nominate _____ because of the way he really works to give us progress in sports.” (Grade 7)
- “She recognized that I was talented in reading and got me into writing my own stories.” (Grade 8)
- “He is always challenging his students and keeping them busy.” (Grade 7)
- “Since the beginning of the year he has been there to help me and he really knows his math. _____ is the best math teacher that I think has ever taught in _____.” (Grade 7)
- “I think that _____ has an impact on me because he always pushes me to do better and I try and I succeed most of the time.” (Grade 7)
- “My special teacher is _____. She is very understanding, extremely caring and always sharing.” (Grade 7)
- “She is hard working, dedicated to teaching and very kind and generous.” (Grade 7)
- “_____ help me realize that if I want to get anywhere in life I have to put all my thought into it and keep on working hard.” (Grade 7)
- “_____ is now my role model and always will be.” (Grade 8)
- “He is patient and helps each individual student with their needs and goals.” (Grade 8)
- “_____ has helped me to become a better reader and she does a very good job at being a teacher.” (Grade 8)
- “She is the funniest teacher and she is very nice, so nice the other classes are jealous.” (Age 12)
- “She’s a great teacher who knows how to make students learn the right way.” (Age 12)
- “_____ has made a difference in my life by encouraging me to have more determination to do what I thought I couldn’t. He showed me that if I put my mind into doing something I can accomplish it. Not only did he make me more determined, he told me that I should have the strength and assertiveness to stand for what I think. Now that’s what I call a hero!” (Age 12)



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- *"She taught me so that I knew a lot for the next year." (Age 12)*
- *"I didn't want to leave her when the school year was over. _____ was the best!" (Age 9)*
- *"She is giving the class a good education by making us work real hard." (Age 9)*
- *"_____ makes a difference in my class because she is trying to give us all a good education by encouraging us to work harder and be responsible. She s doing this because when we get a job we won't be late and get fired." (Age 9)*
- *"We went on a dinosaur dig and went on a canoe trip in grade two. ____ was old but that didn't stop her. She had lots of patience and above all she would help us." (Age 9)*
- *"_____ has been an educational inspiration. I feel like _____ has been patient and persistent in seeing me achieve my goals. His style of teaching is not only adaptable but respectful. Thank you _____." (Age 17)*
- *"In a way he was sort of my motivation. He always made everything positive and supported me in my decision." (Age 17)*
- *"I remember _____. It was the year I passed. She was the best teacher I ever had." (Age 9)*
- *"Before I was in _____ class I hated math and then she showed me how I can like it and now I love math, she deserves a vacation." (Age 13)*
- *"She made me tougher for the years to come." (Age 13)*
- *"She always walks into the class with a smile on her face and is caring, generous, appreciative and a friend. She is a great role model and makes learning fun." (Age 10)*
- *"He knows how to explain things when you do not understand it the first time. He has a neat room." (Age 11)*
- *"_____ taught me lots of notes and how to play the recorder properly. _____ teaches me and my class about composers that are alive or dead right now." (Age 9)*
- *"I am nominating _____ because grade 5 is one most important grade of your life and I actually learned something." (Age 11)*
- *"He always tries to give people second chances and he made learning fun." (Age 10)*



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- *“She deserves it the most. She is nice, comes to school on time, always has a smile on her face and she is very smart.” (Age 10)*
- *“She teaches us only the most important stuff.” (Age 10)*
- *“It was 4 years ago but I remember it like it was yesterday, everyday when I would walk into the class _____ would be there with a smile.” (Age 10)*
- *“I like _____ because she was a spectacular teacher. She always helps me.” (Age 8)*
- *“You always make me feel good with your kindness and sense of humor. You respect everyone and everything and your compassionate, trustworthy and honest.” (Age 9)*
- *“One time we were going to the beach but unfortunately it rained so we couldn't go. But _____ thought the party must go on and we all had a beach party inside.” (Age 9)*
- *“You're the best kindergarten teacher in the whole world.” (Age 8)*
- *“She taught me multiplication and division in one month.” (Age 8)*
- *“I have chosen _____ because of her hope and understanding towards the children. _____ makes an effort to help her students in all situations in school or in a home life. She makes her teaching clear and understandable and always has a smile on her face to show us how happy she is with us.” (Age 14)*
- *“She works really hard to keep students in school. She pushes students really hard to do their best in school.” (Age 14)*
- *“_____ pushes us to work hard, come to school everyday and she encourages us to do our best at everything. I think that _____ gets all the respect from the students at _____ and this is what she deserves.” (Age 13)*
- *“The last couple of years I have noticed that students here... have improved and are taking education a lot more seriously. She has made a great impact on my life, she has opened up my eyes and I would say that she has made a great impact not only to me, but to everyone here...” (Age 17)*
- *“Now, this past semester I passed all of my courses, I don't think I've done that before. I thank _____ for that.” (Age 17)*



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- *"Here its like a big happy family. _____ is the grandmother and all the teachers are her kids. That's the relationship with students that want to work hard and graduate have with _____ and the teachers." (Age 20)*
- *"She pushes students to try to do their best, she tries to help them out because she cares for her students. She stays after school everyday until 6:00 pm to help students do their work. Then comes back again at 8:00 pm for students who want help or need to do their work else where than home. Doesn't she seem full of energy to do things with students." (Age 15)*
- *"She let me see what the world is looking for in a great educated person or woman to become a high profession. She gave me and my peers a lot of lectures to prevent us from failing." (Age 15)*
- *"We can never give him enough thanks for encouraging us to stay in school." (Age 17)*
- *"She Likes Children and treats each one special." (Age 10)*
- *"...is an energetic teacher....She is not only a grade 4 teacher....she is also the president and coach of the Figure Skating Club, the coach of the Curling Club, the president of the Golf Course and the coach of 12 and under girls soccer. She also helps out in the summer with track and field and the swim meet..." (Age 12)*
- *"...she is nice she says yes when people ask us to jig..." (Age 9)*
- *"...teaches us about our culture and she is nice enough to help us. She helps me on Slavey words, sewing, to set nets and set rabbit traps." (Age 14)*
- *"Thank you for taking people for who they are and being a great teacher." (Age 16)*
- *"...she makes sure you are safe at school..." (Age 9)*
- *"I would like to thank _____ for showing me that there's more to life than making mistakes and that you can learn from the mistakes. Also live life to the fullest." (Age 16)*
- *"She taught me to be a good person." (Age 15)*
- *"...He taught me that maybe in reality you didn't win, but in your heart you did the best!...He told us how proud he was to be our coach and made me feel better about the tournament...Thank You." (Age 12)*
- *"...school is so much fun with _____ I have only missed one day of school." (Age 7)*



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- *"...has helped me through some good times and bad times and has made my life better. And has given me hope." (Age 12)*
- *"...is the best teacher in the world. I love cows." (Age 8)*
- *"...raised money for the school.....shaved his head to raise money for a music club. Now we have a band!.....Comments: I think this is a good contest" (Age 16)*
- *"...I look forward to his classes and enjoy learning new things. I feel very motivated to learn while in his classes and I wish every student could be lucky enough to have a teacher like him." (Age 18)*
- *"She is a nice person. She taught me lots of new things. She is very fun and made things easy. She will always remind me of what a good friend she was to me and my classmates." (Age 14)*
- *"_____ helped me through some good times and bad times and has made my life better and gave me hope!" (Age 12)*
- *"Thank you _____ for making a difference; for caring, sharing, understanding and teaching traditional values and just being there in slavey classes." (Age 18)*
- *"He was always encouraging me to meet my potential and surpass it. Because of him I became a honour student and I still do well." (Age 11)*
- *"...squeezes so many fun things into one day, and she makes everyday terrific. This has taught me that having enthusiasm for what you do makes a big difference!...I have learned that learning is fun and that there is always many more interesting details to learn about and so many topics that I can't count them all..." (Age 7)*
- *"He is always happy and makes things more exciting and happy in the classroom." (Age 10)*
- *"____ taught me that you can't change the past but you can change the future." (Age 11)*
- *One day I got a letter in the mail. It was from _____, she was just letting me know how proud she was of my hard work at school, that makes me feel very special." (Age 8)*
- *"...helped me to find solutions to my challenges along the way..." (Age 13)*
- *"I think _____ is a good teacher because he is funny and friendly. He makes math look easy and he sometimes takes us on field trips." (Age 10)*



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- *“_____ is terrific, she has made a big difference to me with my reading and writing. She is really friendly with us kids, and loves to hear what we have to say.” (Age 7)*
- *“Thank you so much for helping me to understand math and making it so much fun!” (Age 13)*
- *“...has made a difference because I used to be shy and I can now express my thoughts with the class at discussion time.” (Age 8)*
- *“She is a kind caring teacher that will help you anyway she can. She always has time to listen to your problems, and she always has time to listen to your good things too.” (Age 11)*
- *“She is always happy and smiling and makes the day seem brighter.” (Age 14)*
- *“...is always fair and treats us with respect...” (Age 9)*
- *“She is nice and makes learning fun. I want to thank _____ for teaching me how to read and write.” (Age 6)*
- *“...In science, his many trivia questions ‘unearthed’ my hidden knowledge.._____ taught me that I can put my imagination on paper. He is an inspiring teacher, an excellent coach and a person to talk to” (Age 13)*
- *“He always makes time for his students. He doesn’t take anything but your best and believes in you all the way. He is the most fantastic teacher I’ve ever had.” (Age 14)*
- *“She always encourages me to try my best” (Age 14)*
- *“I always enjoy being in school with her because she makes it fun and makes me want to come back everyday.” (Age 15)*
- *“She makes me feel very special and to be proud of myself.” (Age 9)*
- *“I use to be very shy, I wouldn’t talk but _____ gets everyone to feel ok.” (Age 8)*
- *“_____ is fair and nice. He helps me when I need help with projects. He always gives me constructive feedback that helps me with the next project.” (Age 12)*
- *“_____ made a difference because he is always helpful. He always helps out with the sport teams. He also made a difference because sometimes he doesn’t act like a teacher, he acts like a friend.” (Age 12)*



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- *"A teacher who is always prepared and willing to do whatever needs to be done." (Age 8)*
- *"She's nice and fun and teaches us lots about math. I didn't like math before but now I do." (Age 8.5)*
- *"...helped me learn more about the world, math, reading and spelling." (Age 9)*
- *"He's nice. He is a good teacher because he tries to do the best to help us..." (Age 11)*
- *"_____ is the nicest teacher I have ever had the chance to meet. He is like a father to me." (Age 11)*
- *"_____ is the best teacher and....is never grumpy." (Age 11)*
- *"...explains stuff if we don't understand. She is very organized..." (Age 10)*
- *"...is very dedicated to her job. She is fun, creative and ONE OF THE BEST TEACHERS EVER!" (Age 11)*
- *"...you are very patience (patient) with me." (Age 8)*
- *"...After school sometimes he spends time with me on math work before a test. He is excellent at helping people. He is always positive. He is an agreeable person, too." (Age 14)*
- *"_____ has really changed my life from start to finish. If I am stumped on something, _____ will help me but not give me the answer, because if she did I wouldn't learn anything. _____ is an educator that no other educator could measure up to...." (Age 10)*
- *"He is a very active and kind person." (Age 7)*
- *"...is very funny, fun and kind and tells very funny jokes.....as I would say it, he is awesome." (Age 8)*
- *"...she listens to people's ideas." (Age 10)*
- *"...has changed my life by teaching me how to learn (to) subtract and do times tables and lots of other stuff." (Age 7)*
- *"...He has helped set up student government, set up dances, and.....he.....would help anybody, he has helped teach everybody in this class!!" (Age 11)*
- *"...She always stays after school to prepare fun projects for us to do..." (Age 9)*



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- *"...I hope one day to be in his class again (be)cause he was very good at explaining and helping me throughout the year." (Age 12)*
- *"...has made a difference in my life because _____ always turns my frown upside down....._____ teaches me more than A,B,C and 1,2,3, she teaches me what life is really about like...caring, respecting others but most of all to love one another..." (Age not available)*
- *"...helps me with all problems and always encourages me to do my best at everything..." (Age 13)*
- *"...He made me understand that your future is a great thing to look forward to. And that you need a good education to be successful in the work environment. Now I like to take homework home and do work in the classroom. And when I do I feel like I am going to grown up to be the success that he taught me to be." (Age 15)*
- *"...is the best teacher I had ever had so far. I have had many cool teachers but he outsmarts them all! He has the best teaching techniques for math..." (Age 14)*
- *"...she uses her own time to teach us the Enrichment class..." (Age 8)*
- *"I think he changed my life. Now I am a successful grade 6 student."*
- *"I liked her because she taught me how to do my multiplication facts."*
- *"She helps me understand when I am confused and always tells me good news."*
- *"Once she took me hunting. I saw caribou, musk ox and ptarmigan. I was my first time seeing caribou. They all had big horns."*
- *"She was very nice to all classes. I think she liked being a teacher."*
- *"She taught me and my class about working together."*
- *"Thank you for being a good teacher. Thank you for making me feel better when I cried. Thank you for helping me learn lot's of things."*
- *"He always knew the right way to help us. He taught us funny songs. He helps us with our math. He is very kind to others he helps to clean up our play ground. He was the best teacher I ever had!"*



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- *“My teacher is important because when students don't know how to do something, she always helps. She always tries her best to keep the students happy. My teacher is important because when we have recess she has to be on recess duty so when the students were fighting, she can tell them to stop fighting. When we have science she doesn't do the work for us because she wants us to learn science. She always has questions if we learn something. We can answer her. My teacher always says try your best because we need to try our best and work hard. My teacher is important.”*
- *“My teacher is important because when students are sad or angry, she can talk to them to make them feel better. She always be nice to everyone because if she is always nice to others someone will not be scared to talk to her.”*
- *“My teacher helped me learn not to take drugs. She is the best.”*
- *“She's sort of strict but I still like her. She helps us a lot and now I know a lot more than I used to.”*
- *“She's made a big difference in my attitude. I used to think I'm not smart but she really showed me how I really am smart. She has showed me what's best for our own good.”*
- *“He is trustworthy, smiley, responsible, respectful, good, generous, creative, understanding, and thankful. He changed my life. He may not be the best teacher in the world but he is my favourite teacher in my life and I will never forget him.”*
- *“She is a good teacher. She makes good cookies and she helped me. She is nice to us. They are good PARTY and good play game. and very very good teacher.”*
- *“She used to read in Inuktitut and it was fun.”*
- *“He does things for us like intramurals after school. And he makes sure that we are not going to fail. And when we have something to say he listens to us.”*
- *“She admits when she has a mistake not pretending it was the correct answer.”*
- *“I like her because she always had confidence in us and always told us we could do it.”*
- *“He gave up his lunches and after school for something he didn't have to do. I think that is generous.”*
- *“...teaches me very good. In all my school years I've never learned so much in one year.” (Age 9)*



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- "...won't let me sit in class and do nothing...makes me work, but not by using a strict manner."(Age 17)
- "...is a nice teacher to have because she is fun and she respects us." (Age 10)
- "...taught me how to smile again....taught me how to say 'Yes, I can do it!'" (Age 9)
- "...always has time for us. But what makes ___ a great teacher is possibly what ___ does beyond the classroom. _____ puts in countless hours...always willing to supervise a dance, chaperone and overnigher, or anything else we may need." (Age 16)
- "I probably wouldn't be as good of a reader as I am now. _____ has also been on a committee that develops the curriculum we use. ___ also meets the needs of the students like if they need special attention or if they need harder work. ___ will meet those needs." (Age 9.5)
- "... class is never boring.... is always helping out with the community anytime ___ can." (Age 11)
- "...Now unfortunately ___ is working with the Board of Education, which in my opinion is a sin! People like _____ should be in the classrooms!" (Age 13)
- "Thank you for making learning fun..." (Age 6)
- "_____ is a real inspiration to this school... always encourages students to do their best. ... ___ enjoys showing young students the opportunities available. _____ really cares of the future of our future generation." (Age 19)
- "_____ inspired me to push myself and work harder at everything I do. ___ taught me things about myself not even I knew. _____ is a great teacher but a greater person (more) than anything else." (Age 15)
- "Thank you for teaching me Slavey and traditional sewing and many good things." (Age not available)
- "... inspired me to hang in there and keep up the good work....___'s one in a million..." (Age 18)
- "_____ is a wonderful teacher. _____ believes in us." (Age 8)
- "___ has been an inspiration in my life since..... 1994.... I am now back in school for the second year and am able to graduate....I now have goals to go to college and make ___ and everyone who has helped me along the way proud to say that they know me..."



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- *".... is a wonderful teacheris great....is nice and kind....is fun and makes jokes." (Age 11)*
- *"...taught me in the first year I went to school (kindergarten)... even taught my mom. Right now _____ is still teaching in the kindergarten classroom. I learned my ABC's there and that made me a great speller." (Age 14)*
- *".... was my grade nine teacher and is now my principal, _____ is still giving me the advice I need. And ____ inspiration has worked, I am graduating this year in June 2001... I love how _____ pushed me to get this far... a lot of teachers have helped reach my goal which was to graduate and go on to college.....Thanks to all who have helped me, and guided me. I appreciate what you have done for me...."*
- *(Age not available)*
- *"I think _____ is a(n) extremely good teacher...is kind and helpful....uses spare time after school for soccer, epals and science fair club at lunch hour." (Age 9)*
- *"_____ is a very good principal and...makes fair rules." (Age 12)*
- *"....is a very good teacher....is very nice, patient and caring...." (Age 16)*
- *"Thank-you for teaching me more about scientific stuff in science. You are my best science teacher, thank-you." (Age 10)*
- *"_____ showed me how to add and subtract very well and taught me great life skills and so far ____'s the best teacher to me." (Age 10)*
- *"....at first I was really, really unorganized and losing all my papers and my marks were going down. Then _____ helped me get organized and my marks went up." (Age 10)*
- *"My teacher explains the work we have to do and how to do it in a way that makes the work easy. _____ is very nice, _____ makes me want to go to school." (Age 8)*
- *"_____ taught me how to work hard." (Age 8)*
- *"....helps me learn how to learn...." (Age 9)*
- *"_____ helped me learn to behave but I'm still working on it." (Age 9)*
- *"_____ taught me to be a better kid." (Age 8)*
- *"....I could not read. Now, I can read and write in school...." (Age 10)*



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)

Thank You for Making a Difference

- “_____ has been a good teacher for me because I’ve learned how to be better organized. _____ also helped me build self confidence. _____ is preparing us for High School...” (Age 11)
- “_____ is a very kind...shows a lot of respect and responsibility...” (Age 11)
- **“This teacher has made a difference for me by teaching me how to recognize my talents...”* (Age 12)
- “_____ was a great teacher....taught me to read thick books and learn very large words...was also the most fun teacher I have ever had..... put fun into school and math....was very kind to everyone in class.” (Age 11)
- “_____ helped me learn things I never knew....probably helped many other kids...” (Age 13)
- “...taught me to understand math and made me realize doing my homework is more important than playing outside.” (Age 13)
- “...taught me my times tables. The fun thing about it is some of the times tables have stories to them, and that helped me learn faster.” (Age 11)
- “_____ really made a difference in my life...showed me what to be prepared for in highschool....helped me improve my math and reading.....But most of all ...helped me to believe in myself. Thank You!” (Age 11)
- “.....taught me to try, to try and succeed and that will always be a part of my life.” (Age 11)
- “I like her because she is nice to us.” (Age 5)
- “...makes our school a better place to be... always helps people who are being bullied.” (Age 12)
- “.....cares about making sure...students get properly educated...cares about students’ problems in their personal life.....always has time to lend an ear, not because it’s _____ job.....but because _____ really does care.” (Age 15)
- “___ is a very good teacher and we all had fun at the same time we learned...” (Age 10)
- “Teachers are the most beautiful people and their students are the key for the future.” (Age 6)



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)

Thank You for Making a Difference

- “_____ makes a difference in many students' lives because... spends an average (of) about two hours a day, outside of normal school hours, with students....coaches school sports, arranges trips and provides students with extra learning experiences like dissections and such.” (Age 14)
- “....made a difference in my education because whenever I don't finish my homework, _____ reminds me about my marks sometimes they're low and then I try to finish all of my homework.” (Age 13)
- “...has a unique way of teaching and that really helped me get back on track with my education...”(Age 13)
- “....is the best teacher... is always trying to make you do your best and try your hardest. If you don't understand a concept, _____ will teach it again until you learn that concept and ...will never give up on you...” (Age 13)
- “...pushes us to do our best and.....is hardly ever crabby....” (Age 13)
- “...wants us to finish high school and have a very good job when we grow up...” (Age 12)
- “...At first I only knew that you had to hit the drum with a stick but now I can play many songs and I understand the instrument more.” (Age 12)
- “...Looking back, I realize that your morning greetings, and afternoon goodbyes have helped me gain self-confidence, and most importantly a feeling of belonging. As I grow older and continue my studies, I have kept that self-confidence and feelings of belonging -because of you...Your sincere concern for me and countless others, no doubt will never be forgotten.” (Age 12)
- “...sometimes gives us breakfast....never gets mad and...actually makes science fun! (Sort of)”(Age 15)
- “...Quand je suis triste, elle me console. Si je ne comprends pas, elle m'explique. Quand j'ai peur, elle me rassure...” (Age 7.5)
- “...has taught me so many things...is always there to help a student in need of help...” (Age 13)
- “I've been a student of _____'s for 2 years. Those years have been the best years I ever had....taught me to always speak the truth and always be who you are.... made me understand stuff I never could before.” (Age 13)



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)

Thank You for Making a Difference

- "...helped me see that learning is very fun if you listen and....made listening fun. We wrote books and poems, played games... We had fun, and did TONS OF LEARNING at the same time." (Age 10)
- "...believed in me and helped me believe that I could do whatever I wanted to do..." (Age not available)
- "...is one of those teachers that make(s) you want to go to class because learning is fun and class just flies by." (Age 13)
- "...I like to help _____ by being the class janitor, and taking out the garbage because ___ deserves a break from ___ job sometimes too..." (Age not available)
- "...has given my entire class knowledge for school and in life." (Age 11)
- "...encourages me to do the best I can....I will always remember ___ words and continue to keep trying my very best..." (Age 10)
- "...makes me feel that I can do anything....it takes someone like _____ to reach out and tell ...students -you can do it. I thank you the reader for giving me the opportunity to tell others...Marsi Cho." (Age 10)
- "___ is the best teacher ever. ___ taught me how to read." (Age 9)
- "___ is a wonderful teacher...creative, fun and a great influence on us." (Age 12)
- "___ is a wonderful teacher and is nice. ___'s always on track and never wastes time." (Age 11)
- "... taught me how to shine..." (Age 11)
- "...has changed my life wherever I go..." (Age 11)
- "Thank You For Making A Difference" (Age not available)
- "...is the reason why students can respect the teaching profession...is devoted and will help any student willing to help himself." (Age 18)
- "We like _____ so so so so so much." (Age 9)
- "...when I had problems ___ would always say, 'If you need to talk to someone I'm always open.'" (Age 16)



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)
Thank You for Making a Difference

- "...I wouldn't be in Grade 12 if ___ wasn't my teacher." (Age 18)
- "...was always calm...never yelled at us." (Age 13)
- "Thank you for teaching me many things." (Age 10)
- "...welcomes me... Just saying "hello" to me makes me feel welcomed." (Age 5)
- "___'s there when we need ________'s open-minded and active." (Age 9)
- "Thank you for teaching me about our culture." (Age 9)
- "I am improving my Inuktitut language! Thank you so much..." (Age 6)
- "Your my best teacher cause I learned my Inuktitut, writing, English, and Math. Thanks...." (Age 7)
- "Thank you for teaching me how to write in my book and how to count to 26." (Age 5)
- "I like when we sing alphabets in Inuinaqtun." (Age 7)
- "___made our classes happy. In the gym... always made us laugh. And when we needed help _____ helped us. And that's what made the difference." (Age 12)
- "...taught me to help other people, and to be a better person....taught me not by lecturing me, but by illustrating to me....lead by example and now I strive to lead by example as well." (Age 16)
- "Most of all when I am sad or having a bad day, ___ talks to me and makes me feel good about myself and whatever is going on around me." (Age 11)
- "My teacher is always proud of me." (Age 9)
- "..... explains everything well and I trust _____." (Age 13)
- "You are a very caring teacher, you show it by teaching me in a caring way. You are a very good teacher." (Age 14)
- "The best of all is, _____ always talks to me like a sister and....makes me happy." (Age 16)
- "I learned to be confident by making mistakes not by cheating." (Age 11)



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)

Thank You for Making a Difference

- *"...has been a great teacher and a good helper when I needed help! ...makes me feel like I'm at home!" (Age 15)*
- *"... puts herself out on a limb to make things happen.... often tells us stories of mythical Inuit creatures.... is an asset to our school." (Age 16)*
- *" ___'s the best teacher I have ever had.... my grades have gotten better and I got smarter." (Age 14)*
- *"...continues to support & encourage me as I continue my education at university."*
- *"...encourages us to do our work. She is a good role model for the younger kids. She tells us what's right and wrong and if kids make fun of me, she does not let them get away with it."*
- *"Thank you for making this letter possible to write to my grade 7 teacher to tell her how much she had helped me....had taught me how to read at a grade 7 level and not grade 4, and she taught me discipline and that I should pay more attention on my work...and told me no matter what anyone else says, I do my best work."*
- *"I never like(d) math, she made it easier for me...She loves kids. Kids love her. She made it fun when we work hard."*
- *" _____ inspires her students. She is constantly challenging them and showing them that learning is fun. She makes school something to look forward to and get excited about."*
- *"...creative classroom ideas that promote 3R's, she manages to meet all her students' needs despite large class size. Commendable Effort!"*
- *" _____ is the best teacher because he gives me a challenging grade 5."*
- *"...gives me lots of homework, lets us do lots of drum dancing, challenges me, (is) never mean to me, helps me on my hard work. Thank you for being my teacher...."*
- *"...has put up with a lot this year and has taught my class so much. She also helped put together a play in our school...."*
- *"...I really appreciate your advice and support. It really makes a student want to achieve more. Thank You!"*
- *"...encouraged me to do stuff if I was afraid to"*



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)

Thank You for Making a Difference

- *"...showed me how to pronounce hard words. She taught me how to breathe when I'm running for track and field. She is my favorite teacher in the whole world."*
- *"...is a great help. She makes a difference in my life."*
- *"...has taught and showed me how to fit in with everyone else and not be shy; to lift my head up and say "Hi"..."*
- *"...taught me how to multiply numbers and taught me fractions."*
- *"...has been teaching for over 25 years....has taught all grades from Kindergarten to Grade 12....challenges us to do our best...cares about each student and meeting our learning needs at our own levels...is a dedicated teacher who deserves recognition."*
- *"...I am happy I was in your class! That has set a good example on all of the kids that were in your class, that is why there are so many nice kids in this world!"*
- *"...got me to read and made reading fun and before it was horrible."*
- *"_____ is a very thoughtful and caring teacher. She has been teaching for 30 years now...always encouraging you to do your best."*
- *"...when she taught me she was kind and gentle and patient. She told my parents to pull up their socks and teach me but do it gently and don't rush. And my new grades are Honour Roll grades and I have straight A's and A+ all thanks to my wonderful teacher..."*
- *"...is a kind teacher and friend...coaches many different sports teams...supports and encourages all children to participate."*
- *"...it was a pleasure to be in her class."*
- *"...And so it began, play after play. It was absolutely fabulous! The original dream had been reaffirmed...How had the tables changed so quickly, so indefinitely. I knew it was her. It was her hard work and commitment. It was her love for what she did. It was her staying after school for hours and sewing and preparing costumes. The dedication and joy for what she did inspired something in me that would never die ambition. And so I would like to thank you. You have changed the way I look at life forever. You have renewed something in me that would otherwise be diseased and forgotten. And even if I never make it to Broadway or the big screen, I will always consider myself an actress, thanks to you..."*



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Thank You for Making a Difference

- *"She's honest, always cares about other people other than herself. Here's an example: she helps out the janitor by keeping everything nice and neat. A big thing: she doesn't get bothered if anyone asks her too many questions but if someone does something wrong, you're outta here."*
- *"... is an inspiration to us all...She makes learning a joy and I look forward to go to school every morning. She is making a big difference in my abilities and motivation to learn."*
- *"This teacher helped me to believe in myself...that I could do better."*
- *"...never yells at us and if we are sick...let's us lie down in the tub that has a lot of pillows and blankets."*
- *"Together we would set goals and to achieve those goals were not easy at times, but she was understanding of my needs."*
- *"...explains things in different ways for different people."*
- *"...But most important, she's teaching us a lot of things that don't seem useful now but will be later on in life."*
- *"...gives up lunches and after school (time) for rehearsals."*
- *"...Elle est un gentille est bon professeur!"*
- *"...helps me to read big words like 'interest' now I am good at big words and now I can read, read and read!"*
- *"...When our parents are too busy, too tired or just can't take us swimming, ___ will look after us....when boys didn't have anyone to take them boating or camping, he use to...over all, he's a great teacher, and I would like to say thank-you for helping."*
- *"...taught me things I never thought I would learn....taught me what life really means."*
- *"....has taught me a whole bunch of math, science, spelling, how to read, how to write, how to speak a few different languages and how to fix a cut...how to help somebody read...how to stand out in public."*
- *"___ touched my heart just by teaching 31 children in one class. I could never do such a thing. That is a very large class."*



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Thank You for Making a Difference

- *"...talks to me like she really cares for what I feel but...I can tell you one thing, it makes me feel like I belong somewhere."*
- *"...made me feel good about myself and that I could do anything if I put my mind to it."*
- *"...If I ever need someone to talk to I know I can turn to her and don't have to feel ashamed about anything. To me she is like a counsellor. Whenever she walks into a room it is like there is a light following her. Everything suddenly brightens. I know through a single person the whole world can be impacted."*
- *"...actually listens to us and helps us when we need help...is very patient."*
- *"...if you met her you would know that she is dedicated and cares a lot about all her students."*
- *"...positive and cool role model...understands the students...brings culture to our school...teaches students to do their best...teaches that it is important to stay healthy...teaches students alternate ways of communicating."*
- *"...When we are falling down, he helps us back up..."*
- *"...helps us learn about the cool stuff in life...."*
- *"...organizes the day and homework well..."*
- *"...cares about the students; if you don't know something, he'll teach it to you until you understand..."*
- *"...gives it all for his students and he truly does care for them."*
- *"...I have had many interesting and exciting debates in her class with my peers. Moments like these can change your point of view, and life, forever. She treats her students with respect and equality. She relates, and thus, understands."*
- *"...gives you the chance to prove you can do it by yourself."*
- *"...is an amazing example of what every teacher should strive to be. In addition to putting countless hours into projects such as yearbook, Tibbett Lake fire camp and photography club, his constant enthusiasm, excellent knowledge..and generally upbeat personality provides an extremely rich education environment. I have had the opportunity to be in _____'s class several times.....and it has certainly led to a better high school career."*



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Thank You for Making a Difference

- *"...works hard at her job so her students, which she has many of, can be more successful in math. She helps me whenever I need it and I really appreciate having her as a teacher..."*
- *"I like the way she acts out the storybook when she's reading."*
- *"...didn't mind taking me out for lunch when I was hungry and had no money."*
- *"I like this teacher because he is able to have fun and let the class have fun, but he can also be sensitive when you need him to."*
- *"...constantly creates interesting ideas for projects....adding his own artistic and creative viewpoints into our own creative minds...."*
- *"...has a great sense of humour, wonderful knowledge of physics & math, and is very well rounded for teaching in High school. He inspires his students to be all that we can be and is very motivational...."*
- *"...his constant enthusiasm, excellent classroom management skills and sense of humour was a very good compliment to my high school career."*
- *"...is a good teacher, he always helps me out when I'm struggling in my classes and he helps me accomplish my goals in school."*
- *"has changed my life and he helped me on his own time."*
- *"...also works endless hours on the yearbook, relatively unassisted."*
- *"...always treats students like people and not little kids. Always respects people as long as you respect him. Always looking out for his students' best interests."*
- *"...is always willing to give up her time for others, she prepares us well and always makes sure we understand new concepts. She always is willing to help with everything - even things besides Math and hopefully others can receive this help as well."*
- *"...he is a good teacher because he has taught grade 8 lots so he knows everything about what to teach grade 8'ers."*
- *"...he isn't just a good teacher, he's a good role model for me because I might want to become a teacher..."*
- *"...if it weren't for him I never would've discovered my talent..."*



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Thank You for Making a Difference

- "...she has changed my life a lot. She has kept me out of trouble and the office.....she is so funny I think she should be on the Jay Leno Show...."
- "...is very organized. He makes sure the class is microscopically clean...he is kind, has a good sense of humour, and he treats all students with respect. He gives DT's after school, but most of the time students deserve it....He repeats things so I know what he's talking about. He makes me feel good all the time."
- "...I just can't explain how wonderful this year has been, let me put it this way, I actually learned something."
- "...he is a good teacher because he prepares us for the real world."
- "...the things that are so great about her are...she is nice, she helps me with my problems like when all my friends are mad at me. She is always there for me and she helps me with my math...."
- "...she gives me a second chance if I do something wrong...she is tough but not too tough. I think she treats me fairly...she sometimes laughs at my silly jokes...she is the best and she helps me to be the best, too."

You have just finished reading a collection of excerpts gathered from **over 14,000 nominations** sent in over the years by NWT students for their teachers.

These words are powerful, yet often left unspoken.

They speak to all educators...

- ✓ Committed to the delivery of quality education
- ✓ Passionate about what they do
- ✓ Dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children

'Thank you' can be expressed many ways and for many reasons...

