

Appreciation. Synonyms include "approval," "admiration," "thanks," and "gratitude." Regardless of which word is used, one of the unfortunate elements of education and our society is that expressing appreciation does not happen frequently enough and is all too often reserved for special events.

Special events in education include Day of the Teacher and Classified Employee Week. If this seems odd to you, it is for most of us. Why is teacher appreciation only a day and classified appreciation a week? I will not discuss the possible politics and rationale for the discrepancy. However, I will continue to assert that teachers and classified staff should be praised for their work much more frequently. Praise should not wait for work to be done above and beyond the call of duty. It should also be used to recognize the dependable and reliable service that is provided.

Here are several ways for you to express appreciation: phone, email (all district email addresses are the first initial, last name @fuhsd.net), send a note, schedule a meeting, attend school activities and talk with staff who are present, be an active member of PTSA, and/or write a letter for inclusion in the newspaper.

If you are waiting for special occasions, May 12 is the California Day of the Teacher and May 17–21 is Classified Employee Week. And, oh by the way, Mother's Day is Sunday, May 16 and Father's Day is Sunday, June 20.