

A Principal's Principle Mission - Hugs

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My heart beating with joy while I was feeling trepidation for the unknown I focused on the excited hand of my grandson being gently held in my right hand balanced by my granddaughter's tender soft fingers in my left hand. We walked together as one, on the sun-kissed path toward the school that would initiate many years of academic learning for him along with many

***A guiding hand
for a child's future
- LOVE -***



***Presenting a child is
love in action***

valuable social and relating skills. While walking this path toward the iron bars that surrounded the school in protection of the children, I flashed back on the first five years of my grandchild's life. His whole life, was lived embraced in the safety of family.

Now, just outside the school building, I had no idea that his first lesson (which absolutely could never be taught from a book) was just about to be received.



A champion for children, Principal Mr. C, hugs children as they come and go from school.

Gently letting go of my very familiar hand, as if mesmerized by an innate knowing, he walked into the open arms of an embrace from a man he has never met. Recognized by the many who know him, simply as 'Mr. C'.

In a world that often discourages touching children physically if you are an authority figure, because of the many ways that touching can be misinterpreted, here before me stood a man, a stranger to me, with arms open-wide like angels wings. Inviting my

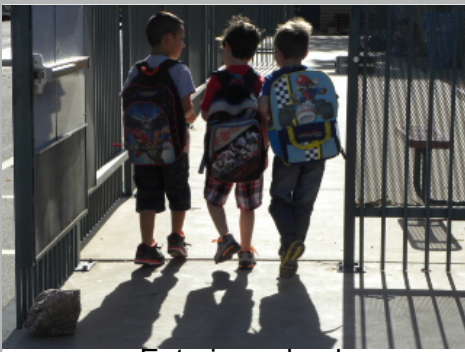
grandchildren into his embrace, warmed by his twinkling eyes, like Santa Claus full of gifts at Christmas.

***The potential
life lesson
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'I am lovable'***

Taking my grandson to school in the early morning and picking him up mid-afternoon I have watched this man, the Principal, consistently throughout the year, as he lights up the lives of every child within three feet of his huge hugging heart. The adults

around him glow in the delight of watching so many children be received in the empowering space of love, constantly unwavering in his unspoken silent, loud and clear message that "you are loved". Lesson number one at his school. Taught the first day by a simple hug. The potential life lesson learned by each child embraced is "I am lovable".

Every grown-up witnessing these kids being hugged becomes a 'loved child' in that healing moment.



Entering school through bars of protection.



Mr. C's message to children he hugs.



School courtyard in nature setting.



Peace prevails when people feel like they matter.

I believe the greatest gift you can give a child is to 'light up' when they enter the room. Beam at them as if they are the only one in the world in that moment! Can you imagine a world where every child felt loved because of that one simple gesture on every adult's part? My working title for writing this article was 'when angels wrap their wings around you'.

On this very first day of what will become many years of my grandson's schooling, the causes and conditions for an open mind for learning and an open heart for socializing with, were born in that moment. Tears well up in my eyes just at the thought of this school principal and his silent mission on earth spoken with a hug. In that open heart-space seeds of wisdom can be planted in fertile ground creating the perfect



Mr. C waiting for the children to arrive

environment for teaching and learning. This was such a beautiful meaningful day in our lives. I rejoiced in the awareness that the love shared at home was going to be

“In that open heart-space seeds of wisdom can be planted in fertile ground creating the perfect environment for teaching”

continued at school as a very grounding part of teaching and learning.

Mr. C feels like a Lightworker to me. Someone who is consciously connected to the light of who they truly are.

An artisan of heartfelt love that shapes who they are while lighting up the worlds of all they meet in one glance of the eye or touch of the hand. They often have a smile that is heard in every word expressed, delivering notes of confidence in the tonality. I watched many times the same quality of presence he has with the students, be equally shared with his staff members and teachers. As I watched him I saw the most powerful guiding force in relationship in action. Consistency. We all need a constant in our relationships. For him love is what you could



**The message from Mr. C
'you matter to me'.**

come to expect in forms that varied from guiding discipline to different shapes of e m b r a c e s , consistently.

It is as if this school Principal's principle mission is to hug and touch as a way to share his heart, which warmly pulses 'you matter to me'. What a beautiful communication. In

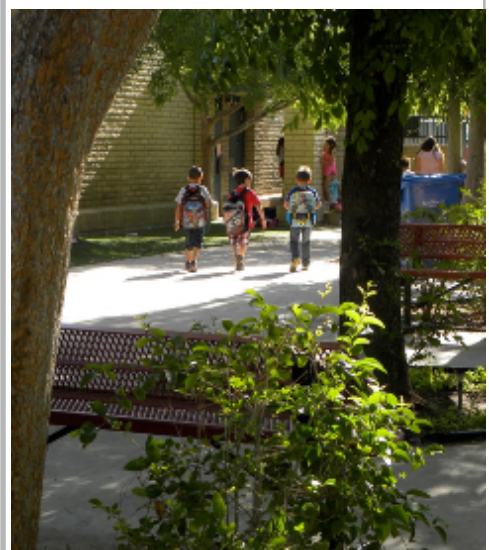
wondering if I conservatively calculate at 100 hugs a day, times 5 days a week being 500 hugs a week, what must the calculation be after decades of being with students and teachers? The thought of one man in one lifetime sharing love with so many lives humbles me. My life has been graced for having met this extraordinarily ordinary man. My grandchildren's lives are blessed. Thank you Mr. C for inspiring my life to be more and love more. We 'see' you. We 'feel' you. We are moved by you. We are better because of you. LCM



**Happy environments make
for happy students**



**Primary Motivation
for Actions at school.**



**Children feel good connecting
after hugs.**

PEOPLE SUPPORTING PEOPLE