

Paul Erlebach  
Neahkahnie School District  
504 N. Third Ave./PO Box 28  
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

March 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Erlebach,

We would like to acknowledge some extraordinary staff and circumstances within the Neahkahnie School District that we feel are long over-due in declaring our gratitude for.

Our son is a fourth-grade student at Nehalem Elementary School. We are grateful for, and have been very pleased with, the general education and care that he has received at NES. Principal Woika obviously sets a high and enthusiastic standard that is carried out by all staff including teachers, cafeteria, maintenance, assistants, even the volunteers; this is a top-notch elementary school.

A highlight of this fine school is the Special Education Dept. Our son has Down syndrome, and during the past five years we have witnessed dedication, compassion, and professionalism that we believe is uncommon today. These qualities are the foundation of what Special Education teacher, Stacey Dills, and her staff, arrive at school with every morning to carry out the specialized work they do. They are truly amazing people, making a difference in the lives of children with special challenges and their families that depend on Special Education. Stacey and her crew roll up their sleeves each day and bring a level of skill, energy, and positivity that makes us, as parents, feel both relieved and privileged to have our child benefit from.

We have never felt that any of our concerns or questions put a burden on staff. We have seen them (along with gen ed teachers, and the other specialists) sit through lengthy IEP, eligibility, and various planning meetings, and not for an instant give anything less than their full attention and effort to make the best decisions for our son's success.

We would like to mention each assistant, teacher, and staff by name, but fear it would take two more pages, as everyone in the school and Special Ed. Program will be named! Please understand we want you to know that we believe this program is one to be commended and used as a model of a successful Special Education Program. We have seen other programs that do not compare, and are proud this is part of our Neahkahnie School District. Please extend our gratitude to your staff. Most importantly, please let them know the joy our son has working with each of them. He is happy and loves his NES education and experiences.

Sincerely,



Phil and Julie Chick, Nehalem

Cc: Principal Woika; Stacey Dills; Neahkahnie School Dist. Board of Directors