An Open Appreciation to the FORMER Sixth Graders of MAC 3:

Thank you for taking the time to share your reactions to and memories of me as one of your teachers these past two years (for most of you). After this summer I will keep the binder filled with the appreciations you wrote about me, at school. For now though, the binder sits in my living room and I smile each time I walk by it. Admittedly, I stop and open it up, and read an entry or two when I’m thinking of last year, and considering MAC 3 next year. Thank you for sharing what you value about me.

Although you’ll be in another building next year and for some, another community, you will all meet new teachers and friends, and will try many things for the first time, while you become more expert at other things. You will always be an important part of MAC 3 and Lake Bluff in Shorewood, Wisconsin.

Your work, attitude, interests, passions, quirks, challenges and friendships will be revisited for years to come in our classroom as examples for others to learn from. I know you will remember the big things, like working with Mr. Karman to create your ancient Greek masks, the planning, creating, buying and selling you did during Kid City, singing the Morning Song, and trying to fly your dragon kite, years after you created it, in front of all the other MAC students. You’ve left your mark and it’s one each of you should be proud of.

As you read the rest of this letter, I want you to think about your MAC 3 classmates; remember the smaller, but equally important things about each other too.

Who fits where for you? What trait describes whom?

Zoë Bockhorst          Leo Fowler          Sharlena Roder
Emily Brokmeier        Caroline Fraser      Abby Schill
Aliyah Brown           Kai Geitzen          Cole Stephens
Ari Cobb               Abby Goldberg        Levi Taylor
Philip Creighton       Jack Harju           Nathan Taylor
Noah Dess              Yasmin Hanny         Ellen Teerink
Nina Draper            Fannie Nesler        Will Vuyk

**Kind** - you care about people and things and try to help or support when needed, and always enjoy the company of others.

**Thoughtful** - you notice when someone or something needs help, guidance or assistance, you step up and on your own, solve a problem, or get help to do so.

**Opinionated** - you are willing to share your feelings and ideas, and accept that others may not agree with you, but know you will still be friends.
Committed - you were excited about the subject matter, you expect to improve and learn more, and never give up.

Funny - you knew just how to make others laugh and reveled in your secret jokes with classmates.

Listen - you show others you are present, engaged and interested in what they have to say, through your body language and your spoken response.

Artistic - you share what you are thinking using more than just words; you communicate with yourself and others using pictures, color, sculpture, music, dance, acting, to name a few.

Athletic - your ability to win whatever you are playing is over ridden by your desire to be a good sport and provide your team mates with a chance to experience the glory.

Talkative - you know what you have to say is important and you want to be sure others are able to hear it.

Observer - you carefully watch what people do, you make your decision quietly and then forge ahead.

Questioner - you wonder, you ask, you verify and you expect to eventually understand what is new and different.

Compassionate - you along with Mrs. Miller have been moved to tears (maybe because she was?) during the read aloud and show you care about those around you in your own unique way.

I know where I would place each of you; you all fit in more than one category for me. That is taking into account my experience and memories of you. Make this personal for yourself. Add classmates' names to the line under each trait, where do they fit for you? Like me, I’m certain you will not be able to limit yourself to one trait per-person. That’s as it should be, we are complicated individuals who can bring out the best in others. Remember that - you have the power to change those around you while you work to make our world a better place. Know you’ve changed me.

With love and appreciation,