

November 8-9, 2005

Dear Parents,

Now that your child has shared his/her learning process and achievements with you, please take a few moments and write him/her a letter of celebration. Adolescence is a time when a lot of teenagers start to thrive for independence. The fact that your teen has articulated to you today his/her strengths and weaknesses needs to be celebrated. It is important to take the time to show your child just how important that communication is. Let him/her know how you feel about the academic success you have seen today. Pick one or two specific things you saw in the portfolio to comment on in your letter. This would be the time to pour on the compliments; let's motivate these teenagers to forge ahead into the next quarter.

Please mail your letter to Goldenview using the stamped envelope that has been provided, or drop it off at the office the next time you are at school. We look forward to receiving these letters within the next two weeks. If you write your child's name on the front of the envelope, it will help us sort these letters more quickly.

Wednesday, November 23, students will open these letters in class. Imagine what your written words will mean as they go into the Thanksgiving weekend. We know this will positively influence your child.



Thank you for taking the time to complete this "homework" assignment. Please keep this a secret. We want this to come as a complete surprise to the students.

Sincerely,

The Neon Team

***Teachers:** This is such a rewarding experience. It takes some extra time to orchestrate this activity, but it is well worth it. Yes, some students will not receive correspondence, but most parents will take the time to do this. The students find it intriguing, too. Place this "mystery homework" assignment into a sealed envelope and sneak it into each portfolio the night before conferences. Also make sure you place an additional reference to the "mystery homework" on the student's agenda (to do list) for the conference.*