



A Celebration of Thanks



"I have not stopped giving thanks for you" (Eph. 1:16)

Teachers stand tall as shapers of your child's destiny. As adults, we remember in life the teachers who encouraged us and helped us to see the hidden seed inside just waiting to bloom. The end of the school year provides a great opportunity to just say "thanks." As school administrators or parents, you can help the children express their appreciation to the dedicated teachers who have devotedly taught them throughout the year. Find some time with the children away from their teachers to plan a day to offer a special "Celebration of Thanks" that their teachers will always remember.

Heart-Felt Thanks To Our Teacher

You Will Need:

- Teacher Thank You Song / Tape Player
- Gifts from the Heart made by the children
- Party foods supplied by parents
- Colorful Decorations (ie., heart-shaped balloons, table covering, plates and cups, etc.)



Teacher Thank You

(Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins)

It's the end of the year
Look how I grew
I've learned so much
Maybe you have too
Most of all I will remember you
All my life all my life

You're the first to get here
The last out the door
I know what you have come here for
You love me and you love the Lord
I thank you I thank you

CHORUS

And I will remember you
All the things you taught me to do
And I will remember you
All my life

In my school we can bow and pray
You've helped me so much along the way
Your love will be there
Ev'ryday of my life of my life

©2003, 2004 Big Steps 4 U Music ACAP. All rights reserved.
International copyright secured.

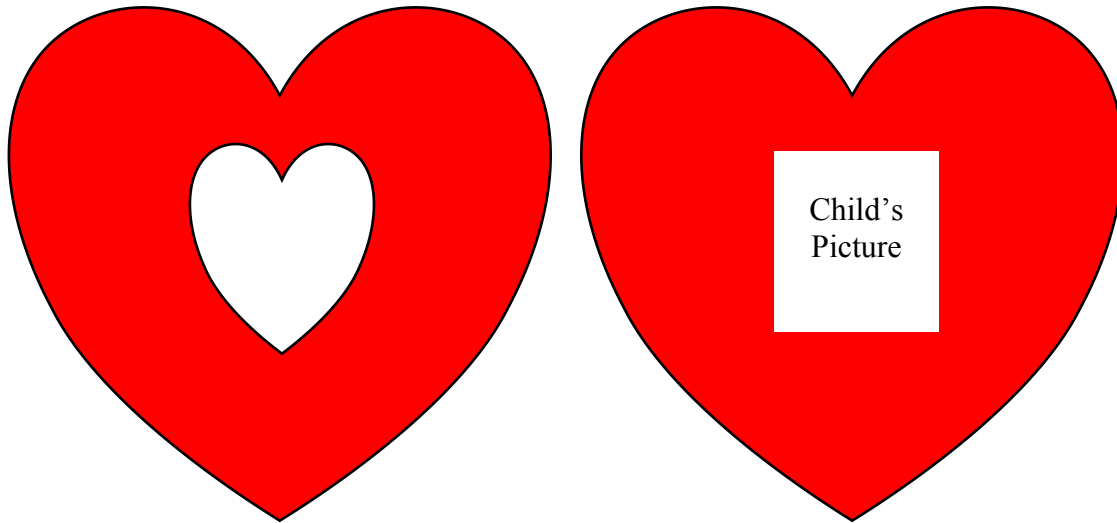
www.Maryricehopkins.com

(May be duplicated for personal use and not for publication.)

Our Heart-Felt Thanks Card ~ Craft

You Will Need:

- 2 Hearts Per Child (Pre-cut)
- Picture of Each Child (Ask each parent to send a picture or have a polaroid camera available)
- Markers / Crayons / Scissors / Stapler / Glue



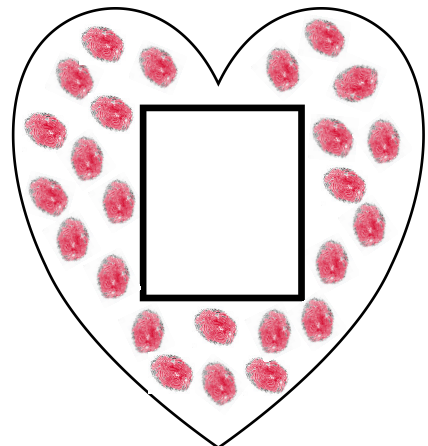
Give the children two hearts. Pre-cut the top heart so that it will align with the child's picture on the bottom heart. On one of their hearts they will glue their picture in the center so it will show through the top heart. (You may want to help younger children center their hearts.) Glue or staple the two hearts together. Let the children decorate their hearts and write a special message of thanks. Smaller children will need some help with writing their special thank you.

Heart Imprints

You Will Need:

- Large Heart Cut Out from Poster Board
- Copy of Poem: "Heart Imprints"
- Fingerprint Ink

Have the children each place their fingerprints on the poster. Gather the children together at the party to sing "Teacher Thank You" and present the Heart Imprints Poster.



Early Childhood

Heart Imprints

You'll leave so many fingerprints
Engraved upon our hearts,
And the lessons you have taught us
They never will depart.

So much more than counting numbers
Or learning colors, too;
More than reciting ABC's,
We've learned self-worth from you.

For you've made us feel so special
And taught our hearts to sing;
We learned that if we will believe
We can do anything.

We always will remember you
As years will come and go;
Like a flower you have watered us
And made us bloom and grow.

Tucked away with all our treasures
Labeled precious memories,
Forever you will stay with us;
In our hearts you'll always be.

©2005 Linda J. Stevenson

Older Elementary

Heart Imprints

You'll leave so many fingerprints
Engraved upon our hearts,
And the lessons you have taught us
They never will depart.

So much more than math or science;
More than history, too;
More than from books I had to read,
I learned self-worth from you.

For you've made us feel so special
And taught our hearts to sing;
We learned that if we will believe
We can do anything.

We always will remember you
As years will come and go;
Like a flower you have watered us
And made us bloom and grow.

Tucked away with all our treasures
Labeled precious memories,
Forever you will stay with us;
In our hearts you'll always be.

©2005 Linda J. Stevenson

Heart-Work Thank You Gift

You Will Need:

- Modeling Clay
- Paint and Brushes
- Pre-Printed Card (See below)
- Smock to protect their clothing



You've Touched My Heart

Give each child enough modeling clay to make a hand imprint. Have them form the clay into a heart shape and press their hand into the clay to capture their hand print. Let the clay dry and then have the children paint their "Heartwork." Attach a small card that says, "You've Touched My Heart." Present with "Heart-Felt Thanks" card.



A "Hearty" Feast



(Always check for allergies before serving.)

You Will Need:

- Heart-Shaped Sandwiches
- Heart-Shaped Cheese (cut with cookie cutter) and Crackers
- Chips & Dip Served in a Heart-Shaped Dish
- Heart-Shaped Cookies or Cake
- Cinnamon Heart Punch (Red fruit punch with cinnamon heart-shaped candies)

Serve on colorful table decorated with hearts and balloons.



Closing Prayer

Dear God:

We thank you for giving us such a wonderful teacher. Her fingerprints will always remain on our hearts. May she always remember how much we loved her and that she will always have a special place in our hearts.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen

Enhance Your Program with These Great Resources by Mary Rice Hopkins

Teacher Thank You

On Sing through the Year CD



Another Teachers' Hit

Hugs are Free

Available on Juggling Mom



Accompaniment Tracks Can Be Purchased
From Mary's Web Site

In the Mood for a Party?

Join Mary in Her Parable Praise Party Series and Celebrate!



Order Online

www.Maryricehopkins.com

(May be duplicated for personal use and not for publication.)

Layout and design of Mary Rice Hopkins' Newsletter by Linda Stevenson