

Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. Elementary School

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Michele Salzano, Principal

October 23, 2009

CDR Douglas Kunzman
PRECOMDET GRAVELY
1474 Gilbert Street
Norfolk, VA 23511

Dear Commander Kunzman,

On behalf of the entire Gravely Seadog Community, please accept my sincerest thanks and gratitude to you and your crew for their support and involvement in Field Day 2009. The presence of the crew, their active participation, and their enthusiasm for our Seadogs throughout the entire day made the experience a memorable one for our school community! As you can tell from the many pictures on the websites, the smiles on the students' faces showed what an impact the crew's presence made! I hope your crew found the day to be a memorable one as well.

It is not every day that a school is fortunate enough to have 85 sailors volunteer to support their students in an event. What speaks volumes is that these 85 amazing individuals gave a day of vacation to support our Seadogs. It was a day longer than a regular school day for the crew ~ probably 15 + hours of their day. What impressed me the most is how each crew member put 110% into the day and truly made our Seadogs feel special. I had the pleasure of observing many interactions between your crew and the school community. I am extremely proud to have seen the attentiveness, sensitivity, and true joy in which they interacted with the students, staff and parent community. They truly gave not only their time, but a little of who they are ~ positive role models for our students. How fortunate you are to work with such an outstanding group of individuals! Thank you for sharing them with us!

I thought you'd be interested in some of the comments I received from our parent community:

"Just wanted to say what a GREAT day today was with all those sailors! Everything seemed to run very smoothly and every one of those people that came in from the USS Gravely had a fantastic attitude and represented themselves perfectly! They were fun to watch to go from being very polite and proper with the adults and then when they were with kids, they were just kids themselves! I loved it!"

"I enjoyed field day immensely! I do not know whose idea it was to include them (sailors) in it, but it was a stroke of genius!! Thanks for letting us be involved!"

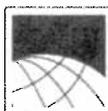
Many more families have stopped in to echo the above sentiments ~ a true testament to you, your leadership and the crew!

I can only begin to imagine the demands on your time as you are embarking on a great run with the USS Gravely! Please know how grateful I am to you for being an integral part of our Seadog's lives. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to you for your commitment to our school!

Success = Education + Motivation + Perseverance

Have a Great Gravely Day!

Michele



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