

Dear Parents,

With Valentine's Day approaching, I would like to ask a special favor from you. It is actually homework for you! What I'm asking of you to do is: first, read the enclosed passage by James Hymes Jr.; second, reflect on your child unique gifts (that quality that makes Billy "Billy" and unlike any other child); and thirdly, to write a valentine letter to your child telling him/her how very special he/she is and why.

As Mr. Hymes says, we often get caught up in grades, classroom performance, whether your child qualifies for special programs, top teams, and biggest awards. We sometimes forget the core that powers that child- the unique personality trait that causes us to sit back and smile and feel a flush of pride in our offspring. Too often our lives are so busy, and we don't tell our kids what we DO love about them often enough. Please write a valentine letter to your child on the enclosed paper. Let your son or daughter know what it is that makes him/her unique in your eyes.

Your child knows that you have "homework" but he/she doesn't know exactly what it is. We will surprise the children with your valentine on February 14th. It is very important that your child receives a special Valentine's letter from you, so PLEASE make every effort possible to return your Valentine's letter on **Monday, February 3rd**. You can return your letter in an envelope- just seal it with tape so that those children who possess a strong sense of curiosity won't succumb to temptation!

Again, let me stress the importance of your child receiving a special valentine from home. Have fun and please get your homework in on time!

Sincerely,
First Grade Team

Please only send in 1 letter!!!! Keep in mind your child will be reading it on their own that's why we are sending big, lined paper so they can read your writing. Thanks!