



A Crowdsourced Message from Steve*

Thank you to those of you who were able to join our Town Hall meetings this past Wednesday. We had a record 130+ parents and staff in attendance! While the majority of the questions that came up in the Town Halls are addressed in [this recording](#) of the All School Meeting presentation that appeared in this week's TNH (please listen if you have not had a chance), we will pull together any additional themes and share in next week's TNH.

During all three Town Halls on Wednesday evening, we discussed Lifelong Learning and in that context heard the appreciation for our teachers and staff loud and clear, an especially meaningful tribute during Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week. My message this afternoon is brought to you by the parents and guardians of The San Francisco School!

"Teaching ain't easy."

The parents and guardians of The San Francisco School are deeply appreciative of the teachers and the staff that supports them, "pre-COVID and still today!"

"We really appreciate all the work and dedication."

We've always known our staff members are extraordinary. This is so evident, not only from the way they created and provided *School on the Go (SOTG)*, but also as most of us (me included!) try to be substitute teachers as we stay at home.

"I don't have the same patience as our teachers do!"

I'm really glad there were faculty members present to hear the words of praise and gratitude, especially around how they have maintained their connections with their students and their superhuman patience despite the challenges of teaching online.

"All the teachers are clearly giving it their all!"

Our children have benefited from their commitment to providing live opportunities for interaction, collaboration, socialization, and movement.

"I have always had extreme respect for teachers.... But [SOTG] amplified that 1000000%."

And the teachers have been models for the rest of us. Many parents commented on how much they enjoy seeing the staff throughout the day, not just at dropoff and pickup. They are now getting to know the teachers and their curriculum better than they had before.

“The teachers are modeling such great communication skills for us parents with these kids!”

They’ve demonstrated what it means to adopt a growth mindset. They show us how important our strategic initiative lifelong learning is (and they inspire the rest of us to keep learning).

“SOTG has been a bright spot in our house. We are so grateful for all your work!”

We were thrilled to hear about the strengths that families are discovering within their students, sometimes very unexpectedly. Many students are surprising their families with the discipline and responsibility they have in organizing their day and diligently completing their work. The students are focused and advocating for themselves in advisory or helplines. They are surprising us with their resilience.

One final sentiment was shared by both parents and staff at the Town Halls - this is a true partnership. As was the case pre-COVID, we need each other to help our students learn best. Your parent support has uplifted us, and made us want to be the best we can be. Today’s Staff Appreciation Gift from the Family Association floored us - thank you! And, we, the staff, recognize HOW MUCH our parents/guardians are stepping up (parenting ain't easy either). With that said, we officially include you, too, as *honorary members* during this Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week!

Together,

Steve