

EDUCATION

Students pen letters to Trump

Notes of kindness to president entered into Congressional Record

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CLINTON - Students in Wendy Jennings' Eagle Heights second grade class recently had their names included in United States history.

While watching a portion of the Jan. 20 inauguration of president Donald Trump, some of Jennings' students noticed someone in the background making a "mean face" while Trump was delivering his inauguration address. The students then began to worry that Trump's feelings would be hurt by the action. To ensure that this was not the case, one of the students suggested that the class write nice letters to the president to cheer him up.

Those letters, thanks in part to social media and U.S. Rep. David Young (Iowa, 3rd District), have now been entered into United States Congressional Record.

"I shared a few of the letters and pictures on Facebook and received a private message from James Carstensen, who is the Chief of Staff for Iowa Congressman David Young, and a former classmate from Clinton," Jennings said. "He liked the letters I shared and said he could help get them in front of the right people...on Feb. 15, the letters were read on the House floor and were

entered into the Congressional Record." The letters each included a compliment and a question for Trump, and the students also offered bits of advice for the president. In return, each student received a copy of the Congressional Record and the words from their letter on Congressional stationery in a Congressional Record official binder.

The children also received a commemorative White House coin, and two books about the White House and the Senate and House of Representatives.

What Jennings has enjoyed the most about the whole ordeal, though, is that the students didn't include politics in the process at all - just general curiosity and the desire to make someone smile.

"I think that is what is so special about this. The kids's questions had nothing to do with politics," Jennings said. "They wondered about President Trump's son, how fast Air Force One could travel, did he always wear red, white and blue ties, had he found the White House bowling alley yet, and to let the Secret Service know if anyone was bothering him. They were all positive and kind, something I think we can all learn from...there is nothing more genuine than the words of a 7 or 8-year-old."



Students in Wendy Jennings' Eagle Heights second grade class show off their White House keepsakes they received after their letters to President Donald Trump were read on the U.S. House of Representatives floor.

Submitted photo

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