

Someone Cared

We all live and work in a world where it is common place to see children and even entire families neglected and left alone. I'll personally never forget the little boy who had nothing but plain white t-shirts to wear to school and no coat my first year in the classroom. People all too often take the stance, "I did without when I was growing up, and now I'm just fine." It makes us feel better even though we know we could and should do more. However, the truth is that for everyone who thinks they turned out OK, there was someone there who cared regardless of the things we did without. I have learned in my time on earth that it is not the things that make us OK, but it is the people in our lives and the lesson they teach that make sure we turn out OK.

In Matthew 25, Jesus was teaching his followers about caring for one another. Matthew 25:40 "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." I have spent these early years of my career doing my best to spend everyday serving and caring for the least of those among us. It has been my pleasure to work along side an administrator who personifies that philosophy every day. Each day for each teacher and staff member at Mantachie Elementary School a very high standard is set. We are given the example that every child matters, every person is respected and valued, and every human being is cared for. It is commonplace for Mr. Dill to be in the classrooms working with the children one on one. We hear him everyday building up the faculty with words and deeds of encouragement. We have also never seen him walk away from the hard lessons that we as teachers have to teach.

Mr. Dill has commented on his complete shock when he was announced as the 2008-2009 Itawamba County Schools Administrator of the year, but it was no surprise to me. I am here everyday to witness the quality and professionalism. I see him go above and beyond, come early and stay late, and even give out of his own pocket because he loves Mantachie and the children that live and learn here.

Twenty years from now, an entire generation of Mantachie residents will look back on their school experience and remember these days. No doubt some will remember what they did without and that times weren't always easy. But, thanks to Mr. Dill, all of them will know that they are doing just fine because someone cared.

--Deric Rea
Speech Therapist