



Kosieniak, Michelle &lt;kosienm@ccsd93.com&gt;

## Your children

15 messages

**Kosieniak, Michelle** <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 8:13 PM

Cc: "Boston, Leslie" &lt;bostonl@ccsd93.com&gt;

Bcc: Aliya <firami10@gmail.com>, Caeden <mrandrechilton@gmail.com>, Caeden <nicolekonopi@yahoo.com>, Chace <derekhyton1@gmail.com>, Chace <nichylton3031@gmail.com>, Jaida <IronworkerLO1@yahoo.com>, Jaida <Shannonmaguayo@yahoo.com>, Jessie <leah@creativitydepot.com>, Jessie <notarus@notarus.net>, Joey <dnhardie@yahoo.com>, Kayla <kakle@att.net>, Lou <jtcorona5@hotmail.com>, Michelle <Julia827@aol.com>, Michelle <standrewcspastor@gmail.com>, Mon <Phetsamonemaha@u-46.org>, Natalie <jolantatarapacz@yahoo.com>, Reggie <jaromeharris@att.net>, Sam <barry@housour.com>, Sam <christine@housour.com>, Tony <lilymayo@gmail.com>, Zaid <sarahashrafi@hotmail.com>, Zak <bewitched1971@gmail.com>, Zak <pkrush@gemhunt.com>, Zayan <bushimapara@gmail.com>

To the parents of our students,

Today, your children and I had a wonderful, uplifting, honest, child-centered conversation about people. Our story this week is a biography of Abe Lincoln. One of our support activities included reading about and exploring the life of Coretta Scott King. In social studies, we are just starting to learn about the original people that walked the land we walk today, the Illiniwek - Native Americans of Illinois.

What's always bothered me about this particular unit is the guiding question...it reads, "**How has working together changed history?**" History, by it's very definition cannot be changed. [*the record of past events an d times, especially in connection with the human race.*] It has already happened. What we CAN do, is learn from it. We CAN change our present. We CAN impact our future.

You cannot read, understand, nor talk about any of these people without first exploring the real and honest history they all lived. I am so proud, and I believe you would also have been, of your children today. When we discussed Abe Lincoln they were aware of the sad, but real past from which our country experienced and moved forward. When we read about Mrs. King, your children shared the stories they've read/learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. In their retellings, I heard words like **brave, free, peaceful** and **love**. Learning about the Native Americans is a new topic to most of the children, but I can see their little minds (and hearts) spinning with questions and connections.

Our children are listening, they are hearing what is said in our homes, in our schools, in our neighborhoods, and on the news. I know this, because today we discussed Abe Lincoln. Today, we discussed Coretta Scott King. Today we discussed Native Americans. Intermittently, students would make connections to our current state of events, to the election, to what they've heard and don't quite understand.

Back to your children...I commend you. I thank you. I applaud you. The insight and input the children brought to our discussions today was nothing but honest, and inquisitive, and **KIND**. I sat in a room of 7 and 8 year-olds today and was inspired by their genuine interest, honesty, and acceptance of one another's differences which make us all truly unique. [I hesitate to even use the word *acceptance*, as I honestly feel that our children don't see the differences adults do; all they see are their friends. People.]

I wanted to share this, as this moment with your children was the best part of my day today. Possibly my week.

Have a great night,  
Michelle

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Regards,  
Michelle Kosieniak  
Second grade, Heritage Lakes School

**Danielle Hardie** <dnhardie@yahoo.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:00 PM

To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" &lt;kosienm@ccsd93.com&gt;

Thank you for sharing. The last two days have been filled with so much negativity. I'm glad our little ones still see the good in everyone and view their peers as equals.

Danielle

Sent from my iPhone

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**Shannon Aguayo** <shannonmaguayo@yahoo.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:00 PM

To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Oh that's awesome those are the best days and moments of a teacher some unforgettable moments to be exact. I hope Jaida participated and knew what she was talking about, LOL

Shannon

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 10, 2016, at 8:13 PM, Kosieniak, Michelle <kosienm@ccsd93.com> wrote:

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**Sarah Ashrafi** <sarahashrafi@hotmail.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:16 PM

To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Thank you for that beautiful email. It brought tears to my eyes. Thank you and Mrs. Boston for all that you do for our children!

Sarah Ashrafi

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**Kosieniak, Michelle** <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:17 PM

To: "Boston, Leslie" <bostonl@ccsd93.com>

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**Kosieniak, Michelle** <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:17 PM

To: "Boston, Leslie" <bostonl@ccsd93.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Ashrafi** <sarahashrafi@hotmail.com>

Date: Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:16 PM

Subject: Re: Your children

To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

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**Rev. Michael Mann** <standrewcpastor@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:58 PM

To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>, Michelle <julia827@aol.com>

Cc: "Boston, Leslie" <bostonl@ccsd93.com>

Michelle and Leslie,

I cannot thank you enough for sending this.

These words have inspired me as I have read of my friends' children being bullied and taunted. Another elementary teacher friend told me that kids repeatedly asked him on Wednesday what "deported" means. A Chicago teacher friend of ours has also given space for her kids to express what they're feeling, and it's pretty heavy - thoughts of war, etc.

You all built a restorative circle today. It gives me hope that, through kindness, their dreams won't be deferred.

Tomorrow, I had intended to ask Mr. Yelaska whether our school was experiencing any difficulty with bullying and whether our church could help. If our class is any indication, the healing (and what I would call good resistance) is already beginning. However, if there should ever arise a need for restorative circles, our church has experience with that. [Our folks stepped in a couple of years ago when Jay Stream had an incident there.]

This is perhaps the most inspiring thing I have read in a while. May I share a bit of this in my congregation on Sunday? I will not share any names or identifying details.

Thank you,

Rev. Michael Mann

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**julia827@aol.com** <julia827@aol.com>  
To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>  
Cc: "Boston, Leslie" <bostonl@ccsd93.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 10:15 PM

This is beautiful. Thank you so much for sharing it, Michelle. So many teacher friends of mine on Facebook were/are really struggling with what to say to their classes this week. Teachers encourage kindness over and over every day... then the country elects someone who is the opposite of kind. It's mind boggling to adults, so how can we even explain it to kids?

Thanks for taking time to lead the kids through important topics... and for sharing the experience with us. They are amazing kids. What a tough week. My instinct is to protect Michelle from my own sadness and fear - she's anxious enough! - by keeping mostly silent but your email encourages me to find gentle ways to talk about these tough topics in an ongoing way. Thank you.

We're excited about the Native American unit and learning alongside Michelle and the class. Michael has done some reconciliation work with Native American communities, so it's a topic that's especially important to him. He's hoping to take Michelle to the Trickster Gallery in Schaumburg, or the Native American Museum in Evanston, to see and learn even more.

Feeling very grateful for you.

Julia

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**Kosieniak, Michelle** <kosienm@ccsd93.com>  
To: "Rev. Michael Mann" <standrewcspastor@gmail.com>  
Cc: Michelle <julia827@aol.com>, "Boston, Leslie" <bostonl@ccsd93.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 10:25 PM

Hi Michael,

I am very open to you sharing this with your congregation. I support sharing the positive in this life wherever we can find it!

I don't know exactly how things are going throughout the school, but I would think your offer to support the children and our schools would be welcome.

Thank you for your support!

Michelle

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**Phetsamone Maha** <phetsamonemaha@u-46.org>  
To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 7:40 AM

Dear Mrs. Kosieniak,

I would like to ask how are the children supposed to dress coming for the Luaa Dance this evening.

Thank you,

Phetsamone Maha

On Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 8:13 PM, Kosieniak, Michelle <kosienm@ccsd93.com> wrote:

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**Kosieniak, Michelle** <kosienm@ccsd93.com>  
To: Phetsamone Maha <phetsamonemaha@u-46.org>

Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 8:32 AM

Hi. I'm not sure myself as it is organized by the PTA. I will try to find out for you!  
Michelle

(I am assuming Hawaiian or beach-type clothes)  
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**Boston, Leslie** <bostonl@ccsd93.com>  
To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 12:33 PM

michelle - you out did yourself. I'm crying. :)  
Love ya!

On Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 8:13 PM, Kosieniak, Michelle <kosienm@ccsd93.com> wrote:  
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Mrs. Leslie Boston  
Second Grade Teacher  
Heritage Lakes School

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**Barry Housour** <barry@housour.com>  
To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>

Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 10:58 PM

And this my dear lady is one of the many reasons why we love you dearly!

**Barry Housour**  
[630-624-9940](tel:630-624-9940)

Sent from a mobile device

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**Fareeda** <firami10@gmail.com>  
To: Michelle Kosieniak <kosienm@ccsd93.com>  
Cc: Leslie Boston <bostonl@ccsd93.com>, ICE Husband Syed <snazuddin@gmail.com>

Sat, Nov 12, 2016 at 12:30 PM

Thank you Mrs. Kosieniak for the beautiful insight. It's wonderful to know that these kids have the kindness and love in their hearts and words.

I applaud you guys for educating these kids about learning to love the differences between each other. They spend most of their day in schools and learn a lot there, which impacts and shapes them now and for the rest of their lives.

I hope we can educate the community as a whole to understand and love each other.

I want to say that we are blessed to have you and Mrs. Boston as Aliya's teachers, and that we can rest assured that she is learning and experiencing things that would mould her into becoming a loving, caring and compassionate human being. Thank you for everything you both do!

Syed and Fareeda

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**Leah J. Dicker Notarus** <leah@creativitydepot.com>  
To: "Kosieniak, Michelle" <kosienm@ccsd93.com>  
Cc: "Boston, Leslie" <bostonl@ccsd93.com>

Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 8:33 PM

Thank you so much! This made my week. It's been really rough around here.

Kara knows and understands so much. And, of course, as Michelle knows getting her to zip it is a feat of magic. With that, a lot of the current political environment has spilled over to younger ears.

Waking up Kara yesterday morning was a nightmare. Without going into detail (since I want to try and get some sleep tonight...unlike the past few nights :- ) ), Kara was the reason the girls were so late yesterday. She couldn't keep it together...and Jessie was having fallout tears. (I had mostly cried out all of the water in my body before I fell asleep around 3am.)

Please know that I give you personally and especially professionally during times like these, I respect you more than I can possibly explain. It's tough enough being a parent to a two children, but being a daytime parent to so many kids...and when you have to mute your own opinions...the internal strength you possess is incomparable to any other profession.

Thank you for all of your love and unending patience for our children.  
Leah

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**From:** Michelle Kosieniak <kosienm@ccsd93.com>  
**Date:** Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 8:13 PM  
**Cc:** "Boston, Leslie" <bostonl@ccsd93.com>  
**Subject:** Your children

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