

How can I begin to thank you all for the change that you have helped provide my students? This summary is one way I can share with you how grateful we all are for what your foundation has done. Not only has it provided us with tools, your gift has allowed us to grow.

My classroom is filled with smiles, laughter, and cheers, on most days. However there are some days when students' smiles and laughter disappear. There seems to be a dark cloud hanging above them. They struggle to recognize it and how to move on.

That is why I asked for your help in providing tools so that my students can begin to self regulate. We have learned how many tools can help us to name what we feel and how we can change those feelings. Best of all, the best lessons we have learned have come from books! So not only can we grow, we also have learned about how much we love to read!

Through the use of the literature and tools, my class is developing beyond the personal level. Empathy is becoming a much stronger skill. These children have developed ways to help others. My hope is that these skills will transfer with them throughout their lives so that they may impact others in a positive way.

Your gift will continue to help us grow in so many ways. We are all very thankful for the life-long lessons you have provided us. Thank you for continuing to work with us and grow our amazing community.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rearden's Third Grade Class  
Johnston Elementary