

Heart

by Joanne Grimm, California State Chaplain

Teachers have many unique talents such as knowing exactly who has an open bag of Doritos in his lap, being able to listen with apparent interest to yet one more book report of the adventures of Harry Potter or playing Dear Abby to lovelorn teenagers. But, what teachers really have is a lot of heart. How do we know that?

Well first, they are hearty bunch. How else could they be strong enough to sit through faculty meetings, department meetings, circuit meetings, parent meetings, union meetings and oh, yes, meetings to plan meetings?

They put hours and their whole heart into planning lessons and activities that meet grade and subject level requirements, include the information covered in state tests, compete with Candy Crush on the I phones and if there is still time in the day provide that 'ah ha' moment for their students.

There are times when their hearts are heavy; the times when a student dies or drops out or makes a bad choice - those times when they just can't help.

Then there is heart burn from gulping whatever is at hand while doing yard duty or correcting papers or tutoring or helping the Parent Club with a bake sale or eating unidentified foil wrapped packages from the back of the faculty room refrigerator.

Teachers have warm hearts. That comes from those heart-warming moments when a first grader begins to read with confidence, when the basketball team they coach beats its biggest rival, when a student returns after graduation to report on his progress and to say "thank you."

At Alpha Delta Kappa we know all about those teachers with heart. They are our sisters and our future sisters. We plan, we work, we offer the support that will keep them from losing heart.

Writer Owen Young said, "A program lives today and dies tomorrow. A mind, if it is open, may change with each new day, but the spirit and the heart are as unchanging as the tides.

You see, it's not the test scores or the shiny new computers or the newest program complete with workbooks, visual aids and self-correcting tests that make the difference. It's the heart of the teacher. Teachers have always been the heart of education.