

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

(This could also serve as a school newsletter or bulletin article.)

XXXXXX Students, Parents and Community Celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week

_____ students will join students around the globe in honoring their teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week, from May 7-11. National Teacher Appreciation Week is designed to honor the nation's dedicated teachers and to show them our appreciation. Every day, teachers touch the lives of students, parents and communities in significant ways.

During this week-long celebration, parents and students have the opportunity to thank teachers for the hard work they do each day to make public schools great for every child.

The origins of Teacher Appreciation events are somewhat complicated. Although most agree that sometime around 1944 Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge began corresponding with political and educational leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers and show teacher appreciation.

In 1953, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was able to persuade the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day. It wasn't until 1980 that the National Education Association convinced Congress to observe the day and that victory was short-lived since it only occurred that year.

Finally, in 1985 the National Parent Teacher Association established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May and it has been celebrated every year since then.

The work that all teachers do is important but DoDEA teachers often play a special role in children's lives since many students have parents deploy – sometimes for more than a year at a time. The school and the educational leaders in a military child's life provide a sense of stability and normalcy when other areas of a child's life may change due to the parent's service in our nation's military.

Activities and events are planned at many DoDEA schools to honor teachers and celebrate their contributions. Interested media are encouraged to contact school principals for details on school celebrations.

DoDEA plans, directs, coordinates, and manages pre-kindergarten – 12th grade education programs for Department of Defense (DoD) dependents who would otherwise not have access to a high-quality public education. DoDEA schools are located in Europe, the Pacific, the United States, Cuba, Guam, and Puerto Rico. DoDEA also provides support and resources to Local Education Activities throughout the U.S. that serve children of military families.

To find out more about Teacher Appreciation Week origins, celebration ideas or activities, visit the following websites:

National PTA: http://www.pta.org/teacher_appreciation.asp

National Education Association: <http://www.nea.org/grants/1359.htm>

Teacher Appreciation: <http://www.teacher-appreciation.info/>

Teacher Thank You Card: <http://www.teacherthankyoucard.org/>