

May 9, 2012

Dear Mrs. Strauch,

I don't think you would remember me but I was in your 4th grade class at Victoria Groves for the 1993-1994 school year. My name is Joni Stanley (Baker now😊) and I absolutely adored you! I am now a teacher myself for the Alta Loma School District and currently teach 5th grade at Carnelian. I wanted to reach out to you to thank you for having such a positive influence on my life and inspiring me to become a teacher.

I came into your class behind from third grade and I didn't even know my multiplication tables and was a struggling student. I didn't have a very good home life and was behind. What I remember is you taught me my multiplication tables with these cute little rhymes and pictures on your recess and before school, which I know is a big commitment and was very thoughtful. I know, we teachers need our breaks and you were so dedicated to helping me succeed that you gave up yours for me. I also learned to LOVE reading that year because of you! I have my Masters in Reading and Language Arts and I am also a reading specialist because I was inspired to go into that field because you made reading come alive and made me a lifelong reader. You also bought me Matilda at the book fair which I still have to this day and read it aloud to my students every year, like you read to us.

Lastly, I am so thankful you took the time out to work with me and help me become on grade level and most importantly you made me feel loved, special, and important which at that time in my life, I needed. I hope to inspire my students and impact their lives the way you have mine. You are an amazing teacher and I wanted you to know you made a positive difference in my life. I was inspired to teach because I wanted my students to feel the way you made me feel when I was your student. I appreciate you and hope you are doing well. 😊 I've enclosed a picture of you & me when I was in fourth grade.

Sincerely,

Joni Baker