



Quotes from ScanSource Mentors and Woodland Students and Staff:

"This (mentoring) is the best thing that has ever happened to Woodland Elementary." – Wanda Mote, Woodland Elementary Principal

A reading intervention teacher bragging on Jessica Crocker: "I couldn't let this day go by without letting you know what an awesome difference I can see in T. When mentioning this to her teacher, she attributes it, and I agree, to the positive influence/experience she is having with her mentor."

"YAY!!!! That is perfect! THANK YOU so much!!!!!" was the fantastic email response from a teacher at Woodland Elementary who got the news that her student was just matched with a mentor.

I got parent permission (to have a mentor) from C. He said, "All I want is a mentor!" – Sharon Kirton, Woodland Guidance Counselor

"I just had a little boy in my office crying. He said that his dad died 6 years ago. When he sees other kids with their fathers it upsets him. Can we get him a male mentor PLEASE?! Thank you for coming to our rescue!" – Sharon Kirton, Woodland Guidance Counselor (Matthew Sekuras volunteered to mentor the boy that week.)

On his first visit, Jason Rankin, was greeted by his 1st grade mentee with a HUGE hug and, "Where've you been? I've been waiting for you forever!"

"At first I was a bit skeptical to sign up to mentor because my selfish side believed once a week was too often to go visit an elementary school kid I didn't know. Now I realize once a week is not enough! Each Tuesday I am so excited to go visit my mentee, and cannot wait to hear what she's been up to for the past week. She brightens my day, and it lasts through the week. She is always so cheerful and happy even if she has a math test after lunch (her not so favorite subject). My mentee asked me if I would chaperone their 4th and 5th grade winter dance. I was so excited that she wanted me there and didn't think I would cramp her style! I am so thankful to be a part of Mentor Greenville, and I have loved getting to know my mentee. I am excited to watch her move into her middle school years." -Julia Lawson, ScanSource

(After the Mentor Celebration Dinner) "Another touching event...so thankful to be a part of this great program. Thanks to Alise and the Reeves family for making it possible!" –Ashlee Dufek, ScanSource

"We click really well. My mentee is very outgoing and loves to play sports, so it makes it easy for us to bond. He already thinks I'm the coolest guy ever, and his classmates think he's the man." -Kevin Newell, ScanSource

"S is making a positive impact on my life as well. Today was his birthday, and I brought in some cookie cakes for the class. A guy from my work recently moved from Phoenix to take a job here in Greenville, and his son just started at the school this week. I took S over to him and introduced them to each other. When we went back to eat, my mentee asked if he could give one of the cookie sandwiches to "my friend." I said, "That would be so kind of you to do that. The cookie cake is yours, and you can do whatever you want with it." S said, "Come on, let's go give it to him." It was encouraging and sweet to see him think about giving to someone else when it was his special day." –Joel Douglass, ScanSource

Jonathan Pitts met his mentee for the first time. The student he mentors lives with difficult circumstances, but has a great attitude. In their conversation, the student mentioned that he loved to read, and his favorite book was Diary of a Wimpy Kid. The student mentioned that he couldn't wait to read the latest book in the series. After lunch, the mentor spotted The Ugly Truth (the book!) at the school book fair, and bought it for his new mentee as a surprise for his next visit.

ScanSource Mentor Stories

Story 1

Joel Douglass mentors a 2nd grade boy at Woodland Elementary. One afternoon I received a voice mail from Sharon Kirton, Woodland Elementary's fantastic guidance counselor. I was concerned because her voice sounded shaky. She said, "Alise, I just had to call and tell you what a mentor said today."

She continued, "Mrs. A just called me crying saying that when S (Joel's mentee) saw Joel walk in today, S bounded over to him and said, "You make me SO happy when I see you! You make me SO happy!" After lunch, Mrs. A overheard S tell Joel that his mom was not able to take him trick-or-treating. (He was very sad, since it was Halloween.) Joel, without a moment of hesitation, replied, "That's OK! Trick-or-treating is just about hanging out with your friends, and I'm your friend – so let's go out to recess." The boy's face immediately brightened, and the two headed out to recess.

Story 2

Ruth Robinson brought cupcakes to school to celebrate her mentee's birthday. This was the email I received from the teacher...

"I really am thankful for Ruth. D just needs someone to believe in her. She has never had someone to send in cupcakes to honor her. I am thrilled that she is getting this experience that so many children just take for granted."

Story 3

Joan Burket has been paired with a girl who had lice over the summer. The child's mother and grandmother (not knowing any differently) shaved the child's head. So, D started school with little to no hair on her head. The guidance counselors went to Walmart immediately and bought her scarves and bandanas to cover her head. The guidance counselors shared that story in the ScanSource training. When they finished, I said something along the lines of, "How different will that child's life be if she has someone to sit across from her and tell her how beautiful they think she is. Because right now, she is not feeling beautiful- entering 5th grade with a shaved head."

A few weeks later...

*From: **Joan Burket** <joan.burket@scansource.com>*

It was D that has made MY day!!! Seriously, very sweet, adorable girl...

She's beautiful! And I kept telling her that...

Now, when this child remembers her 5th grade year- yes, she will remember starting school with a shaved head. But she will also remember Joan sitting across from her- telling her that she is *beautiful*.