

2008 UF COE Writing Contest **WINNING ENTRY**

(This is the **WINNING ENTRY** out of 27 submitted in the College's recent writing contest on the topic of "What's Good in Education?". Visit the [writing contest home page](#) for links to other entries.)

WHAT'S GOOD IN EDUCATION?

A day in the life of a school

By **LACY A REDD**

*UF doctoral student in Teaching and Learning;
Principal, Newberry Elementary School*

At the end of a long day, one elementary school principal reflects on what's good in education . . .

What's good in education is this: Teachers smiling and welcoming their students and families every morning . . . Seeing children walking in the hallway with their nose in a book they just can't put down . . . Seeing beautiful artwork made by children hanging in the hallway . . . Hearing the front desk clerk say good morning and helping a student who fell getting off the bus calm down . . .

Seeing families reading together in the media center before school . . . Having a child give you a great big hug just because it makes their day . . . Hearing a teacher ask a child if they are hungry and finding them extra food for that day . . . Seeing the school nurse get a card from a child she helped get dog poop off her shoe the day before . . . Hearing the media specialist so excited over a new book she brought to read to the kids . . . Seeing a teacher calm an upset parent who is having a hard time at home . . .

Walking down the hallway and getting eight different smiles and hellos from kids . . . Watching cafeteria ladies serve with a great big smile and asking a child if they are having a great day . . . Hearing teachers talk about how wonderful the two new custodians are . . . Watching a paraprofessional help a child learn to say the sounds an alphabet letter makes . . . Hearing a counselor console a child who is dealing with divorce . . . Observing an older student help a younger student by holding the door for him . . .

Hearing a veteran teacher give advice to a young teacher who is struggling . . . Meeting a student new to our school and watching her nervous face as she enters a new classroom . . . Seeing the students in that classroom welcome the new student with open arms . . . Watching that child's parents relax because

they know their child is going to be okay . . . Watching young preservice teachers testing their wings at teaching and smiling when the principal walks through.

There are so many great things happening in our schools, all you have to do is visit one for a little bit and you will hear and see all of these great moments. Visit one today!

* * *

[Back to Writing Contest home page](#)