

Old School Rule: Say “Thank You”



Photo/Susan Boxla

Natalie Davis Miller

In the past few months you probably learned that if I’m anything, I’m old school – from record players to saying, “Yes ma’am.” I’m also old school about saying “thank you.” Now that seems to be a no-brainer, right? Someone does something nice and you say, “Thank you.” Hold the door open – “Thank you.” Let you pull out into traffic – you wave thank you. Give you a gift; do you a favor – you write a thank you note.

Not only do I like to write for fun and profit, I like sending notes: “It was nice to meet you” notes and thank you notes. I like sending them as much as I like getting them. Isn’t it nice to go to the mailbox and find something other than a bill? Of course it is. I’ve sent thank you notes to people and they’ve called me back to thank me for the thank you note. Sometimes I get calls because they particularly like the stationary I used. I’ve got a stationary collection that allows me to choose something I think will suit the person to whom I’m writing.

While the dollar store is my friend, every once in awhile I like to treat myself. I did just this inside Spark Design Studio located at 219 North Hill Street in South Bend. If you’re looking for wedding stationary this is the place to go. But if you’re looking for the perfect way to send a quick note or say thank you, owner Joya Helmuth probably has something you can sign your name to. And when you send something nice it says something about you the moment the recipient gets it. It says you are thoughtful. It says you appreciate the gift. It says you were brought up with good manners. It says you are classy, classy, classy.

If you want someone to remember you, send him or her a note. Through the U.S. postal system – not by email. Email is nice, and better than nothing in a pinch. But a card that has been personally selected, filled in with a nice note, stamped and taken to a post office shows a person that you thought as much of them as they did of you.

Kids are never too young to say thank you either. Spark Design carries a boxed set of thank you cards for kids entitled, “Hey, Thanks! Thank-You Card Kit for Kids.” The set includes some absolutely funky-cool cards, blank on the inside and waiting for your kids to add the included stickers and their own artistic touch. There’s also a little instruction book that explains why we send thank you notes, decorating tips, how to write a note and address the envelope, and an address book as well. When my four-year old saw the box she immediately grabbed it and said, “Oooohhh!” Kid tested, mother approved.

It’s funny; of all the stuff I keep I don’t generally save birthday cards or really any holiday cards. I do keep my girls’ homemade Mother’s Day cards and of course, thank you notes. They make me feel good; they make me feel special. Thank you notes just have that sort of magic that gives us all hope in a world full of people who seem busy, disinterested and selfish.

So if you’re looking to set yourself apart, the next time you’re tempted to click send on that e-note, push the keyboard away and grab a pen – and some cool paper to say, “Thank you,” the old school way. You’ll feel great – and pretty special, too.



Photo/Natalie Davis Miller

“Hey Thanks! Thank-You Card Kit for Kids,” by Elissa Stein, published by Chronicle Gift (\$12.95), is available locally at Spark Design Studio at 219 North Hill Street, South Bend. You can also find it online at amazon.com or www.bn.com.

“First Person” is a monthly column by local Granger resident Natalie Davis Miller. You can contact her at Natalie_FirstPerson@hotmail.com.

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