

Sharon Rhoads is leaving a legacy of love and encouragement with her signature "Love Notes"



A note from...
Mrs. Rhoads
 Dear Mrs. Wilson,
 Today I sat with you class during lunch. They were polite and courteous.
 It was my pleasure to visit with them. I know you are proud of them.
 Love,
 Sharon

A note from...
Mrs. Rhoads
 Hi. Michael,
 I see you have on your new glasses. I love them and I think you look very handsome! They will help you with your school work. Ha a great week. Love,
 Mrs. Rhoads

A note from...
Mrs. Rhoads
 Katy, Tx... a wonderful place to live, work, play and raise a family.
 Katy is well-known for having exceptional schools and educational opportunities for students to grow and prosper. The people of Katy are genuine. They welcome new residents as they join our fast growing...

The Power of Love Notes

For the last 10 years, Katy school namesake Sharon Rhoads has built up students with carefully crafted and personal messages

Written by Tonya Ellis | Photography by Layla Zakaria

Sharon Rhoads, namesake of Jack and Sharon Rhoads Elementary School, weaves her way through the cafeteria, little, pink notes in hand. Kids quietly raise their hands when Rhoads nears their table. They want her to sit by them.

For the past 10 years, the retired Katy ISD art teacher has made weekly visits to the children, passing out special love notes. Rhoads' inspiring notes have become a tradition at the school. "I go around from table to table, write them notes, and get to know them," she says. "I write about 50 a week."

Building up Students

Each slip of paper has the words "A note from Mrs. Rhoads," printed on the top, along with a positive, handwritten, message she pens while with the student. Rhoads also likes to add a special post script on the bottom.

She writes the notes to build the kids' self-esteem. "Maybe you got a bad grade, or your mama told you to clean up your room and you didn't do it well," she explains. "You look at the note and feel better about yourself."

Rhoads knows most of the kids, but makes sure to script special messages for new students, like, "Welcome to Rhoads Elementary. You're going to be a great Rocket."

Lasting Impression

Students hold onto the notes for years. "Their mothers tell me that they keep them," Rhoads says with a smile. "They have little albums they keep them in."



Students look forward to their notes from Rhoads and keep them for years

At a recent 10-year anniversary celebration at Rhoads Elementary, former students actually brought in notes they had kept. "There was one high school boy who came back and said, 'I have every note you ever gave me,'" shares Rhoads.

Encouraging Others

Her notes don't stop with the children. "There's almost never a week that goes by that she doesn't leave a note encouraging me," says Rhoads Elementary principal, Carrie Lowery. "She leaves notes for staff members as well. Her whole mission here is just to encourage kids and encourage us."

Lowery's connection to Mrs. Rhoads spans decades. "Mrs. Rhoads was my elementary art teacher. As a fifth-grader at Hutsell, one of the first things I got was a note from Mrs. Rhoads," she recalls.

Leaving Notes

The love notes continue a ritual Mrs. Rhoads and her late husband Jack Rhoads shared. "I never came home and there was not a note left for me on the counter," she recalls.

Adult, Child, & Adolescent Psychiatry *for Katy*

Dr. Langan provides confidential psychiatric assessment and treatment in a quiet, professional venue for individuals ages 4 through adult.

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Mood Disorders
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- OCD
- Eating Disorders
- Post-Partum Depression
- ADD/ADHD
- Divorce & Family Issues

Also, parental guidance and counseling in managing behavioral challenges in children is available.

**Abigail
Langan, M.D.**

832.405.4660

810 S. Mason Rd., Suite 345

katy-psychiatry.com



©2011 Katy Magazine

General and Laparoscopic | Non-Invasive Options | Compassionate Care

For Peace of Mind

Dr. Khoury's understanding of the latest medical advances sets him apart. He is well known not only for his skill and compassion, but for his steadfast dedication to his patients.

ADVANCED LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY FOR:

Colon • Gallbladder • Hernia • Anti-Reflux
Single-incision laparoscopic gallbladder surgery
Hemorrhoid • Thyroid/Parathyroid
Breast Cancer Screening & More

Plus management of diverticular disease & colon cancer



Sammy E. Khoury, M.D.
General and Laparoscopic Surgery

Georgios Ziakas, M.D.
Diplomate of American Board of Surgery

SKS
Surgical Group, P.A.

707 S. Fry Road Suite 495 Katy, Texas 77450

Call to schedule
your consultation today!

281-578-8390

Consulta con su medico en Español

Surgical privileges at
The Methodist Hospital - West
The Methodist Hospital - Medical Center
Rice Medical Center



Named
Houston's
TopDocs
for 2008

© 2013 Katy Magazine



©2012 Katy Magazine

DON'T GET WET...CALL

MET
PLUMBING
281-599-3336

24 Hour
Emergency
Service

YOUR LOCAL KATY PLUMBER

With 20+ years' experience, our professional level plumbers are licensed and background screened. We keep your home as neat as when we arrived.

- Water Heaters (Standard & Tankless)
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Appliance & Toilet Installations
- Garbage Disposals
- Leaks & Leaky Faucets
- Clogged Drains & More

Mention this ad for **\$25 off** any repair



METPLUMBING.COM

MPL# M-37282



“It could say, ‘I love you. I’ll be home late tonight,’ anything really. He just always left me a note. I have a few notes from when we were courting at SMU.”

Rhoads and her husband continued the note-writing tradition with their children, Jennifer and Jason, when they were growing up.

Sweet Blessings

Rhoads’ husband Jack, who passed away in 2000, was a Katy native and served as athletic director at Katy High School for 29 years. Rhoads was especially touched when the school board named the elementary school after them when it opened 10 years ago. “That was a reward I never expected; it was a true blessing,” she says.

In addition to volunteering at the elementary school, Rhoads is on the board of Keep Katy Beautiful. The staff at Rhoads Elementary feel that with her special love notes, she’s definitely doing her part.

“I just think it’s really sweet,” says Rachel Camacho, office clerk at Rhoads. “It makes them feel very special, and not all children get that.” KM



At a recent event for Rhoads Elementary, a high school student let her know that he had kept every note she had ever given him



TONYA ELLIS enjoys writing feature stories, and spending time with her husband and three children.



KATY'S NEWEST & MOST DESIRABLE ADDRESS IN 77449

The Commons at Hollyhock

Apartment living like you've never seen

New, 1 & 2-bedroom luxury apartments



State-of-the-art materials, fixtures and appliances



© 2015 Katy Magazine



Beautiful, spacious floor plans and top amenities
Easy Access to I-10 & Grand Parkway
On-site maintenance & 24-hour emergency service

TOP AMENITIES

- LARGEST POOL IN HOUSTON
- CONCIERGE SERVICES
- ON-SITE RESTAURANT
- COFFEE BAR
- FITNESS CENTER
- CROSS-FIT & SPIN ROOMS
- CABANAS
- OUTDOOR GRILLS
- INTERNET CAFE
- COURTYARD
- LARGE CLUBHOUSE
- PET FRIENDLY



STOP BY FOR A TOUR!

5751 Greenhouse Rd. Katy, TX 77449

www.commonsofhollyhock.com

281.345.2600