

Opinion - Editorial/Article

By: Senator Ken Pruitt (R-Port St. Lucie)

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“Thank a Teacher”

They are the field Generals in the infinite battle to provide an education for our children. Leading the Pledge of Allegiance every morning, shepherding students from place to place, and staying late to work on the following day’s lesson plans are just a few of the tasks on their everyday checklist. When Johnny and Suzie are going off to summer camp, many are preparing for the next wave of smiling children to walk into their classrooms next August. They are our teachers and we don’t take the time to thank them enough.

Public education is a basic function and responsibility of the State of Florida. Over two and a half million students need classrooms, textbooks and computers; but they depend the most on teachers. From arithmetic to calculus or the alphabet to Shakespeare, each and every teacher plays a significant role in enlightening their students with the power of knowledge. They take our children and guide them along their educational paths towards reaching the next level.

As the end of this school year draws near, we should all take the time to thank our teachers for a tremendous job well done in the face of adversity. Nature’s version of the evil twin stepsisters, better known as Frances and Jeanne, put a level of stress on our local school districts, the likes of which had never been seen. No mercy was shown to classrooms, hallways, offices, even a few cafeterias and gymnasiums. Severe damage was done, but nothing could not stop our devoted educators.

Many with damaged homes of their own, the teachers, administrations and staffs, unselfishly all went back to work. Some teachers were forced to share classrooms. Others had to share entire schools. But with one common goal, all were determined to make a difference for their students.

Every school district effected by the hurricanes was forced to delay the start of the school year, yet still asked to maintain the statewide FCAT schedule. Despite having less time to prepare, parents were still rewarded with pleasing results. The fact that the FCAT score averages improved for the entire Treasure Coast is a tribute to our excellent teachers.

Sometimes the job of a teacher is a thankless task. Let’s change that today. I would like to take this opportunity to say a most gracious “thank you” to the teachers of the Treasure Coast on another successful school year. Enjoy your summer and please continue your outstanding work.