

# *In Appreciation:*

## *All-Star Autographs*

*A 1981 graduate of the high school where I taught, taught me a lesson last week. He has written biographies of numerous sports' greats and traveled with them to many events, watching as they signed autographs for adoring fans. As a biographer, he's heard many tell about inspirational people who turned their lives around, and the number-one super stars of the superstars was always first on their lists: **good teachers.***

*My friend, Del, decided to put the two together. When his sister-in-law mentioned that she wanted to write a meaningful note to each of her kindergarten students this June, Del gave her an idea. He told her that she should have some 8x10 enlargements made of her staff picture, and personally autograph them for each of her students. Del explained to her that he has seen the adoration in the eyes of her students, so similar to that of children receiving autographs from sports heroes. It seemed natural to him that if sports' heroes' first heroes were teachers, then why not let children's autograph collections begin with personal heroes; their teachers. The one thing all great people have in common is a teacher or mentor whose influence helped to lead them to success.*

*This summer (while you have a moment to rest), plan ahead for your fall staff picture. When your picture packet arrives in the school mail, don't just bury it under lesson plans. Take the time to order those extra photos for your students (at least in elementary; I've been a secondary teacher and can imagine what you're thinking here). Why not take Del up on his idea and start a priority lesson early in your students' lives. Help them realize who their personal heroes are from early on. You may even discover your picture in a student's biography years from now. 📧 06-07*

Readin' and Writin'