



👍👍👎 Robert S. Vail III and 33 others

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**Art Berke** This is wonderful, you should indeed feel great about it. Now, about your wardrobe...oh yeah, it was the 70s!!

Like · Reply · 8h

👍 1

**Forrest G. Brandt** Thanks, Art. And yes, it was the 70s.

Like · Reply · 7h

**Kimberly Wilson** ❤️❤️❤️ Yes! Mr Brandt that is me in the peach colored blouse! I never ever forgot you either, I also remember a Mr. Tuttle? Not sure who he was and I may be wrong but the principal's name was Mr. Moser not sure if I had much love for him lol. Just wish I could figure out who this other student is. But this post definitely made my day!

Like · Reply · 7h

↳ **Kimberly Wilson** replied · 1 Reply · 7 hrs

**Sibyl Harris Miller** Woody, this is just wonderful! You were a fantastic young teacher!

Like · Reply · 7h

👍 1

**Forrest G. Brandt**

8 hrs · 👤

There are things that happen that "make my day" and some things that happen that make my life. I opened up a Messenger Post - something I rarely do - this morning and found this:

Dear Mr. Brandt,

I doubt you will remember me, but you were my first-grade teacher at Newtown Elementary, in 1975. You wrote me letters for several years after that. I think of the time and effort it took to keep in touch with me. And I'm sure you wrote to others as well.

I loved you and your class. I loved school. Thank you so much for teaching me and for inspiring me. I became a teacher myself and have taught Kindergarten, second grade, and fifth grade. This coming year I'll be taking on a new challenge, teaching a fourth grade gifted and talented classroom!

I don't think you were at Newtown very long. I remember my mom told me you were too good and too progressive and had your own ideas and Mr. Xxxxxx (I think he was the principal at the time?) felt threatened? At any rate, I love that about you. And, you once drew a little cigar on my paper and wrote, "Close, but no cigar." I was so curious about that expression. I remember standing at your table just to ask you about it. You explained it to me. Hahaha.

I hope you're doing well. What path did you take after Newtown? That must have been early in your career. You were young. I feel like you had a mustache that year. 😊 Do you still teach?

Inspired and admiring,

Your student,

Tricia

PS My maiden name was Xxxxxx. But that probably doesn't ring a bell either!

Ah, but it did ring a bell. Tricia had curly black hair, was curious and an eager learner. Her father, an architect, came to class to talk about his work and helped them draw their house on blueprint paper and then developed their drawing so each one had a blueprint to take home at the end of the day. Her mom was a volunteer in the classroom and spoke in my defense when the board met to fire me. How could you ever forget people like that?

Tricia joins Kim as two of my students from that 1977 - 78 class who have reconnected via Facebook. Makes my day to hear from either of them. Below: That's Tricia in the middle of the first row, red skirt, white blouse and socks. Kim, where are you in this pic? I think I know, but I'm not sure - are you next to Dwight?

**Karen Cox** OK. You made this fellow teacher weep. And, FIRED YOU? Let me at them!

Like · Reply · 7h

😭 1

**Kimberly Wilson** I remember our whole class crying .

Like · Reply · 3h

**Ken Rex** Nothing better

Like · Reply · 7h

**Meribeth Couser Brown** Fantastic! What a wonderful letter and affirmation that you make a difference. I love it.

Like · Reply · 5h

**Chuck Sturtevant** Nice!

Like · Reply · 4h

**Sarah Hayward McCalla** I love this. I sent my very special 3rd grade teacher a message via Messenger, but she's never received it.

Like · Reply · 4h

**Chris Burroughs** Technology gets a win this time. How wonderful to have such a grand note! You made a difference, Woody. No surprise there.

Like · Reply · 1h

**Cecily Lambert Claytor** What a great story ❤️❤️❤️

Like · Reply · 59m

**Ellen Austin-Li** That is so moving!

Like · Reply · 49m