



"Thanks, Mom!"

May 2018

Dear Friend,

We are writing to ask you to help Waltham Family School support mothers and children in their learning. During the month of May we are reminded to thank our mothers. This year at Waltham Family School one such thank you really stands out.

Maria Rodas is a WFS parent graduate and her son, David, will graduate from Waltham High School in a few weeks. David spoke at the annual *Fiesta! for WFS* in March this year:

I don't know if you have noticed yet, but I have one of the greatest mothers in the world!

David's mother, Maria, from Guatemala attended the Waltham Family School from 2003-2006 with her three sons, Steven, David and Matthew in preschool. Last year, Steven graduated from high school and is now attending MassBay Community College studying computer science. David will join him at MassBay to study life sciences, beginning his pursuit of a career in medicine. David gives his mother credit for his love of learning:

It was my mother who helped plant a seed in my heart for the love of education and for me always to want to learn.

From her always sitting next to me in the kitchen saying, "David, you can do it. You can always do it. You just have to focus. You can do anything as long as you focus. And follow your dreams."

Now I can gladly say that I'm a senior; I'm going to graduate soon; I got into my college, and all I can say is:



Maria spoke at the Fiesta! for WFS in 2017 surrounded by her family. From the left: Hector, Steven, Maria, David and Matthew.

Thanks, Mom!

Together We Succeed!

Maria learned from her time at Waltham Family School that planting a seed of love for education was vital to her sons' educational success. Studies show that a key factor in predicting a child's academic success is the mother's reading skills. More than half of WFS parents have a sixth grade education or less from their home country; several mothers never had the opportunity to attend school. Their children might have a high risk of academic struggles and of dropping out of high school. However, the children of WFS are succeeding!

Why is that? Because the WFS model has proven successful. The children benefit from a robust pre-school experience, while they witness their parent working diligently to learn new things in school. The WFS parents set a powerful example for their children when they learn English, job skills, and how to be partners in the education of their children. The Waltham Family School empowers the entire family to prepare for a lifetime of learning, and the children now have sky-high prospects for academic success!

Waltham High School Graduates 2018

When Waltham Family School first opened its doors in 2003, we only dared to dream about seeing WFS preschoolers, like David, grow up to be inspiring, thoughtful, hardworking, and ambitious young people who are about to graduate from Waltham High School.

We are very proud of David and the other WFS children: Erik, Giovanni, Joseline, Rami, and Tony graduating this year and wish them well as they embark on the next chapters of their lives.



Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy (right) hands a proclamation to Maria and David at the Fiesta! for WFS.

Thank mothers and plant a seed of love of education!

Together we can plant a seed in young children's hearts so they, too, can begin their journey with a love of education. Your donation – of any size – can help improve the lives of preschoolers and their families. Together we can empower mothers like Maria and give them the tools to support their children in their education. At the *Fiesta! for WFS*, David put it eloquently:

I couldn't be the man that I am now if it wasn't for my mother. She taught me all the things I know. She's the reason for being who I am now. This rambunctious, lover of comic books, all-out nerd who always wants to learn more about science and history and everything that has happened in this world – because of her!

Send a donation in honor of a mother or other important person in your life and we will send a special note to let them know of your recognition. The note cards feature artwork by WFS preschoolers.

May all families share the love of education!

Thank you,

Tom Maehl
Friends of Waltham Family School, Inc.

Britta McNemar
Waltham Family School



PS. Call your mother!

PPS. Don't delay, send your tax-deductible gift today in the mail or online: walthamfamilyschool.org

PPPS. Save the date for the annual **WFS Showcase on Thursday, May 31 @ 10 AM – 12 PM.**