

(To James Gordon - OBAP VP - NE Region [May 2008])

Dear Captain Gordon:

Major kudos for appearing in Fort Washington today, your reception by the children was most amazing. I was the dad in the black "google" polo shirt who asked if your org would accept a non-black to participate in your program. My son Noah turned 13 two weeks ago, is in 7th grade at the Parkland Aerospace Magnet Middle School in Silver Spring. We live in Bethesda. I took him for a "BeAPilot" lesson when he was in first grade and not only did he sit on my lap but he took the controls and was a natural -- "look there is a parking lot of school buses) and he gently nosed down and banked to them. Since then he has devoured "wild blue wonders" the student's book on flight, enjoys MS Flight Simulator, and participates with me in the DCRC (remote airplane club). We would both love to know what opportunities he could join near our home in Bethesda, perhaps at the Airpark in Gaithersburg. I thank you for taking the time to read my inquiry and look forward to corresponding with you. Thank you!

Greg

(To Handel Wellington - NE Region)

Dear Handel,

Thank you so much for coming to speak to the children yesterday; especially in that weather. Traffic must have been terrible. Your enthusiasm was contagious! I walked around smiling the rest of the day!

I hope that you were not disappointed with us in any way. Usually we have groups as large as 35 students. Rarely, we will work with a smaller group of children because they are enrolled in a Special Needs Program. However, there was a change in schedule at the last minute that morning, and to better accommodate the children's needs, the other teacher in the building and I switched groups.

I want to tell you that they were so excited after you left. You were the first pilot that they had ever met. They promised to send me copies of the pictures so that I may send them on to you.

Thank you again, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. I hope you will come to visit us again soon. If you do, please remember that you can come in the afternoon as well. Traffic might be lighter at that time.

Take care,

Monica Pinto
NJ Public Schools

(To Demico Black, Joe Hayes, Javier Ramos - NE Region)

Dear Captain Tolbert and Gerry Dupree:

I just wanted to let you know how wonderful your outreach work is. Captain Demico Black visited our school and shared his knowledge and experience with students at both our school sites. Pilot Hayes and Pilot Ramos also volunteered their services. These young men are fine examples, fine role models. This was our first career project and your outreach is part of its success. Captain Black was truly inspiring. The students and staff were fascinated. We plan to have this program every year and these young men have assured me that there are many who would be willing to participate. Our students are mostly black and Hispanic; they are in special education for behavioral and emotional problems; they are underachievers. And they have very limited dreams. OBAP played a role in challenging them to dream and achieve. They can see what is possible.

Thank you.

Gloria White
Guidance Counselor
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New York, NY

(To AJ Tolbert - SE Region)

Captain Tolbert:

I hope you received my card. Again, I wanted to thank you -- via email -- for your visit. You inspired me to have an aviation week. So, on Tuesday (Literature day), we read a newspaper article about the need for future pilots in Florida and on Thursday (poetry day), we read poems by aviators. Keep up the outstanding work that you do -- both in the air and on the ground! I'm honored to have met you.

Take care,

Ms. Marisol Cruz
Fort Pierce Westwood High School
Fort Pierce, FL