

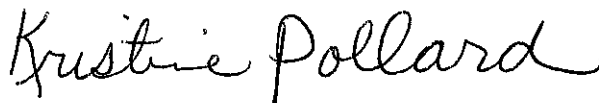
May 1, 2013

Dear Ocean Institute,

I can not begin to thank you enough for your generosity in choosing to help provide my students with a scholarship in the past to participate in your amazing programs. I teach a fourth grade Gifted and Talented Class in Santa Ana. I love to teach about California Natives and European Explorers. I also help my students write a written report and build a model for their assigned mission. However, due to their low socioeconomic status and a language barrier for some parents, this is all done in class. In a test-driven, educational climate these days, I refuse to give up teaching a more performance-based curriculum. As you well know, the California Time Capsule Fieldtrip helps foster this belief, and allows my students to enjoy being outside of an inner city neighborhood. This school year, especially, our school has seen a rise in gang violence and graffiti, making it impossible for the kids to even ride a bike to school. Our bike racks remain empty. Thank you for continuing to allow my students an opportunity to escape all that for a day and play outdoors outside school fences.

As always, I have several students who come from very difficult home situations. This year in particular, I have several students who live in a single parent household due to one parent either abandoning the family, or worse, because the parent is serving time in jail. Regardless of their personal struggles, all these kids are very intelligent and highly gifted. They have high standardized test scores and learn at a higher level than their peers. However, it is usually difficult, if not impossible, for their families to provide them with opportunities to participate in any extracurricular activities outside school. Thank you again for helping make this trip possible. In most cases, not one of my students have ever been camping before, hiked, or even seen a real Oak tree.

I know the economy can be very unpredictable at this time, but I hope you will still consider helping my class attend one of your amazing fieldtrips in the future. Thank you for touching so many lives, and helping make California History fun and real for some kids from the heart of Orange County. I promise you they will never forget it!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristie Pollard".

Jefferson Elementary
Santa Ana Unified School District