

Fifth graders say thank you to our troops

By Gary Weckselblatt

Fifth-grade students at Trumbauersville Elementary School enjoyed a lesson in honoring America's heroes recently as they wrote letters to members of the military, prior to the celebration of Veterans Day.

Many of the youngsters, in the classrooms of Cheryl Bigenho, Pat Wilson and Ashley Martin, were joined by their parents, who were invited to take part in this special assignment.

Most students wrote to a service-member they did not know, while others had the option to pen their thoughts to a family member currently serving or one that had previously served.

The young people seemed to understand the importance of their gesture. "We need to honor them be-

"We need to honor them because they are serving and protecting us and our freedom."

**Caleb,
Student of Ashley Martin**

Trumbauersville Elementary School

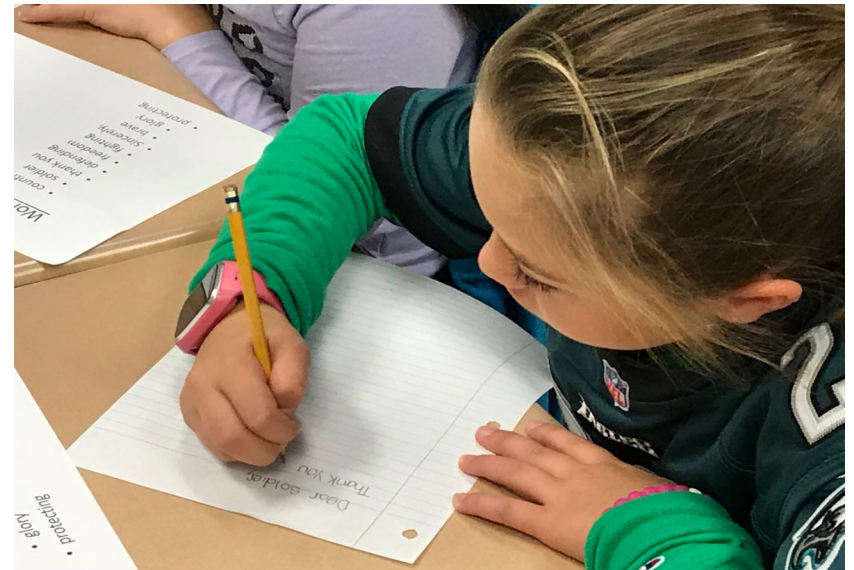
cause they are serving and protecting us and our freedom," said Caleb, a student in Ms. Martin's class. "It's important to not just think about ourselves but to think about other people."

Before writing, students watched and listened to a video of the emotional song "American Soldier." They were then given a bank of words and phrases to use, such as appreciate, grateful, and come home safely. The children could write about themselves and ask if the service-member had children or pets.

But they were told to stay away from "inappropriate" questions, such as "Have you killed anyone?" or "What type of gun do you have?"

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve our country," Ms. Bigenho said. "That's why this is such a special time. This letter is something that will make their day."

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Trumbauersville Elementary School fifth graders took time to write to those who serve our country.

