

Cortada Elementary School
3111 N. Potrero Ave.
El Monte, CA. 91733

April 17, 2014

Dear Mr. Tone,

I'm a fifth grade teacher from Cortada School in El Monte, California. Thank you for inspiring motivation in our students. The past few years have given our students an opportunity to set goals and strive to do well in competition. You see, the students at our school have often told me that people don't believe that they are winners. Last year, they won second place in our district competition. They proved that it doesn't matter how big or small you are, or where you're from, perseverance prevails. Nervous that we had to hold our position from last year, we boosted our studying and practice time this year. As a result of the kids' hard work and determination, our team took first place! It wasn't easy, as there was a lot of competition district-wide. The students were so proud of themselves, and I have to admit their overall confidence overwhelmed me. For days after their district Tone-Up competition, our team members walked with their heads held high, wearing their Tone-Up t-shirts, and showing off their individual trophies. Even last year's team members were excited for them! It made me realize that this experience will have an impact on those who participated for many years to come. Some of the boys and girls may be inspired to try out for other competitions; something they may not have had the confidence to do in the past. It has been a pleasure coaching our students these past two years, and I look forward to working with our students again in the future. Please continue to support our students by visiting our school and keeping that personal contact with them.

Thank you,

Lara Powers
5th Grade Teacher