



Turkey and a break from school are not the only things on the minds of elementary school students as Thanksgiving approaches. Class writing projects reveal that children have much more that they are thankful for. Here are a few examples.

I am thankful for the wonderful food that's on my table because not every kid has food in front of their eyes.

I am also thankful for my family because they are kind, funny and they support me on everything. My parents help me on my homework. My mom cooks wonderful meals that I enjoy. My dad is a hard-working man.

I am thankful for all my teachers because without them I won't be this girl. My teachers taught me how to read, write and many more things. Some taught me to never give up even when it gets tough.

Finally, I am thankful for my friends because then also help me and they care about me. I am very thankful for all my friends.

Anai, Monmouth Elementary School

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am thankful for many things.

First, thank you for Thumper, the bunny, and Scrappy-Doo, the dog. They cuddle with me all the time.

Next, thank you for caring about me and feeding me. I love you cooking – my favorite is spaghetti and pizza.

Then, taking me to the zoo when I was a baby and Disneyland when I was a baby.

Last, I'm thankful for my mean brothers – except, Cameren, the nice one.

Finally, I am thankful for everything in my whole entire life.

Happy Thanksgiving mom and dad. I love all of you guys. I'm thankful for you mom and dad.

Emma, Lyle Elementary School

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am really thankful for what you do for me.

First, I am thankful for you taking me places. I'm thankful that you took me to Great Wolf Lodge.

Next, I love when you give me presents for my birthday. My favorite present is Pokemon cards.

Last, you feed me different types of food. My favorite food is chili mac and cheese and spaghetti and meat balls.

You are the best parents to have.

Vander, Lyle Elementary School

I am thankful for family because they never stop loving you.

I am thankful for friends because they are fun.

I am thankful for school because you learn.

I am thankful for the world because you can live in it.

Maeve,
Lyle Elementary School

I am thankful for a couple of things, and here is one of them.

I am thankful for my family. There six girls and four boys, including my mom and dad. I am thankful for my pets, too.

My sisters are very helpful and so are my brothers, well sometimes.

I am thankful for the big dinner we have at our granny's and papa's. We have lots and lots of fun at my granny's. I like that we get together as a family and eat, too. Then we play games at my granny's house.

I am thankful for a lot of things and these are some of them.

Devyn, Lyle Elementary School

Dear Mom,

I am thankful for many things. I love your mac and cheese, and for taking me camping.

I'm thankful you take me to Muchas Gracias.

Thank you for buying me clothes and body wash.

Thank you for being my best Mom ever and I love you sooo much!!!

Nevaeh, Lyle Elementary School

I am most thankful for Thanksgiving. I love the turkey.

I like family, like mom and dad, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters and cousins. Eating a lot of delicious food and playing with dogs.

Brayden,
Lyle Elementary School

I am thankful for my family. My family is very important to me.

I am also thankful for my friends. When my friend falls down, I help them up. When one of my family members falls or get hurt, I will help them.

I am also thankful for teachers and I'm also thankful for my life. I am thankful for a lot of stuff.

Jameson,
Lyle Elementary School

I'm thankful for many things. First, I am thankful for the food mom and dad give me. Next, my dogs make me happy and are good company. I am thankful for them. Last, I am thankful for my family because they take care of me and are nice.

Clearly, I have many things to be thankful for.

Nolan, Lyle Elementary School

I am thankful for the tooth fairy because she takes the tooth.

I am thankful for friends because they are nice.

I am thankful for teachers because they help me.

I am thankful for Thanksgiving.

Lydia, Lyle Elementary School

Mayor: Unites Falls City

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Drill said she believes his vision for the town is on the right track.

"He wants to see Falls City at its best," she said.

Ungricht claims that he doesn't have enough time for the role of mayor in the traditional sense.

But Brian Dalton, the mayor of Dallas, said Ungricht has made an effort to meet with other mayors in the region and learn as much as he can.

Dalton said Ungricht's success in both manager and mayor roles is impressive.

"He's done a very good job for Falls City," Dalton said. "He's remarkably dutiful and he does it without complaining."

Ungricht, who just won a second term this month, said he "would like to retire again,"

or at least just serve as mayor. He has a plan to get there.

First, he would like to set the stage for some development in town, but not so much as to spoil Falls City small-town charm.

"I'm trying to set the road map for the next couple of decades," he said. "I think if they follow it, it's such a wonderful community, and I think it will be a thriving community."

Then, he wants to find another service-minded person to train to take over administrative duties.

This person wouldn't necessarily have a public administration degree, but the right mix of experience and willingness to learn.

"They could get a great career out of the city and I could help them succeed and be good for the community," he said. "That is what I would like to see."

Christmas: Sign up now

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"We have a little bit of an increase this year, so we are trying to get the word out," she said.

Baurer said the Salvation Army wasn't expecting an increase this year because economic conditions have improved in the area.

After talking to families signing up, a pattern has emerged.

She said unemployment isn't the problem, but a shortage of rentals has driven rent costs skyward.

Even families with two

You can help

DALLAS CHRISTMAS CHEER

For locations of food drives in the area or to donate to the program, go to www.dallascc.org.

Volunteer on Christmas Eve at 6 a.m. at LaCreole Middle School, 700 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas.

DALLAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY

To adopt a family, contact Melissa Baurer at 503-798-4876.

incomes are struggling to cover basic expenses.

"What we are finding are a lot of the families are new," she said.

Families in the Dallas area can sign up for assistance at Family & Commu-

nity Outreach office at the Academy Building in Dallas, 182 SW Academy St. Please bring photo ID, and proof of residence (utility bill).

For more information 503-623-9664.