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11/10/15 ☆



to me, Damian ▾

Dear Melissa,

I wanted to write you a quick note of appreciation for being a super role model of great teaching for ELLs! I had run upstairs to try to talk with you about borrowing some art supplies, but you were in the midst of teaching, so I knew I had to check back later.

BUT.....I was frozen at the doorway, unbeknownst to you, completely mesmerized by your excellent demonstration of making a clay pot. I confess to you now that I was doing a completely unplanned secret observation! I really hope you are OK with that...too late!

Your use of iPad to project on the screen is something you probably take for granted in your routine, but it is your use of it that truly impressed me. There was nothing else but the necessary items being projected in a clear and focussed way. Your modeling was at a speed in which everyone could follow. Your use of clear and boldfaced vocabulary cards that were introduced under the camera as you used those words in your explanation was perfectly timed and allowed every student to understand and remember that specialized vocabulary. Your commentary as you went along was so encouraging as you spoke about the tricky parts and the little things they could incorporate in their own pot production.

I wished I could have watched more of the lesson. What I found out is that an excellent art teacher is a perfect role model for how teachers can make learning accessible to every student: step by step modeling of how to do it, an example of what to aim for, vocabulary clearly defined and illustrated, and an encouragement to face the task at hand. In fact, I could tell they were eager to get started. I loved how one child expressed, "You're a miracle worker!" When you demonstrated how to disguise the seam in the side of the pot.

Melissa, on behalf of the ELL team, I would like to give you a big hug!
Appreciatively,
Gigi

Sent from Gigi's trusty little iPad