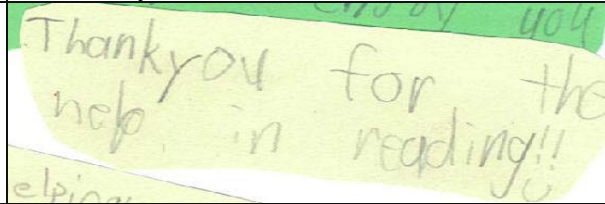


## Melissa Riniker - AmeriCorps Fall 2003-2004

### Hoover School

The experience that I have gained from serving with AmeriCorps over this past year has been invaluable. I started off being nervous and not knowing what I was getting myself into, but almost immediately I discovered that I was getting into something great. During my time at Hoover, I spent a good amount of my hours helping third grade students in almost every area: reading, math, social studies, science, etc. These classes were able to prove to me just how important and valuable my time was to them. The kids themselves showed me how they felt when they all gave me holiday cards.

This is just a sample of what some of the messages that were in the cards.



One experience that I had not anticipated was working with a first grade student whose parents did not speak English. This was putting him behind in his reading because although he would take his books home to read, his parents did not know if he was reading them correctly or not. As I worked with him, I could see his skills slowly improving. Overall, the student greatly benefited from the time we spent reading together. Not only because his reading scores improved, but he also learned to trust someone new and become friends.



The kindergarten classes I worked with not only improved themselves, but taught me a thing or two!

*Though at times it was frustrating and stressful, I tried my best to provide the kids with the best help that I could give. They made a lasting impression on me and showed me that even though at times there was very little improvement "officially," the help I gave still meant something precious.*