

3 January 2012

My friends at Fahney's,

What a great idea your contest is. So great, that I send you my thoughts on "cursive handwriting being eliminated from public schools curricula throughout the country. The Pen is a Waterman Le Man 100, purchased from you then G. Street store back in 1994 time frame.

People will argue that this is 2011, and with computer technology all around us, who needs to be able to write? I find this argument to be short sighted. For example, if you have ever traveled by air to another country you will discover that you need to fill in a form to enter that country or to return to the United States. And those forms are not electronic; they are paper, and you need to use ink to fill them in, and they need to be legible. Many a delay is caused by the inability of the agent to read the paperwork. Similarly, when applying for a job, or completing the initial paperwork, most of those forms are hard copy, requiring you to fill them out and sign them on the spot. Sluggish handwriting will only delay the implementation of your benefits.

But is that enough justification to spend valuable class time learning how to properly form our letters? Education experts argue that it is not. These are the same experts that argue that recess is not required and more time needs to be spent on the basics. And I would agree that time needs to be spent on the basics, and handwriting is one of the basics. The experts focus on the formation of letters, but handwriting is so much more than just the letter. It is the flow, from thought to letter, to word, to sentence. The experts do not argue that we no longer need to teach children how

to add or do their times tables. After all there is no reason they cannot use a calculator for this simple arithmetic, but it is more than learning what the name number is, just as writing is more than just learning how to form the letters. Handwriting is the basis for learning good and ~~proper~~ proper word usage. It forces you to pay attention to what you are doing, and ensures that your thoughts are focused on the task at hand. It is much harder to be interrupted by the trivial when you are concentrating on your writing.

At the end of the day, when it comes to communicating with our fellow human, there is nothing more powerful than the written word.

David L.
Virginia