

✓
Sawyerville Quebec
Jan. 30, 1986

Concord High School
Mr. Charles Foley - Principal
Concord, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Foley,

I am an American living in Canada, a mother of two sons and a student in University. The shock of the Challenger within me, has focused on the students of Christa McAuliffe. I worry about them and I hurt for them. Along with this shock and worry, I have felt the need to express myself in some way, therefore, a letter to the students. It has taken me many hours to form this letter and to sort out my feelings as well. If you consider the following letter appropriate - please feel free to use it; if not, feel free to file it.

My condolences of course go to the family of Christa McAuliffe and all who loved and worked with her. My thoughts are with you all.

Pamela Jovis
Box 373
Sawyerville, Quebec
JOB 3A0

P.S. Excuse the paper and long-hand but I make no pretenses today.

To The Students of Concord High

Christa McAuliffe was made of special stuff. She wanted to instill within you the same confidence, courage and determination that she possessed. Her death was a tragedy, yes. But her life was not! Think of what she gave to you and remember her as she was because even though she is physically gone, she will remain with you for the rest of your lives. Use what she taught you - both the good and the bad - because indeed, she taught you much! By her life, she taught you life; by her death, she taught you death. It's a big one to handle, but you can do it.

I admired Christa McAuliffe because she has given me hope and courage for the future. I am a mother of two sons; one 17, one 8 and find myself back at university following my dreams. Christa is within my support system - a woman who didn't give up and what's more important - a woman who made it! I can be proud of her for what she has accomplished in her short life. She had the courage to follow her dream and that is a very difficult task. Most people give up, only to store those dreams in a box labelled "fantasy." Well, I don't want to give up and she wouldn't want you to either.

From now on you can keep her dreams alive
by following your dreams, whatever the field;
following it with the same courage, confidence
and determination that Christa demonstrated.
Because that was her teaching!

I have searched for a way to express my
feelings and my concerns have centered on
you, the young people who are her students,
the young people who need to hope once more,
the young people who will carry on her
spirit. Good luck to you and know that
you are not alone. One more person suffers
with you and for you.

Patricia Jones