



Messages from the teacher and students

**Colegiul Tehnic de Transporturi
și Construcții Iași**

We live in a world where the word “*Thank you*” is spoken very rarely

Many of you jaded people will reply: ‘Well, we don’t say it because we haven’t got many reasons to do so.’

That may often be the case, but try to imagine a world where people would never help each other out, where the poor would never receive alms, where the sick would never be treated by the doctors, where the parents would never take care of their children, where nobody would give any advice to the ones who need it, where there would be no friends.

Could that world exist for longer than a day, let’s say?

As much as we’d like to think of ourselves as independent and self-sufficient beings, for better or worse, we cannot live without help, without each other. We can’t be healthy without the doctors; we cannot have bread on our tables without the farmers and the bakers; we cannot learn anything if there’s nobody by our side to guide and teach us, just as we cannot do anything if there’s no one to show us how it’s done.

In 1620, a group of people arrived on a ship called *Mayflower* in what later would be called Plymouth, Massachusetts. They have met a totally different and foreign world, of which they knew nothing about. They couldn’t have survived their first year in the semi-wilderness had it not been for the Native Americans who taught them how to grow corn and other vegetables necessary for their nourishment. That’s why, after collecting their first harvest from the fields, on the last Thursday of November, they organized a large feast. They wanted to express their gratitude for the abundant crops. They couldn’t forget, of course, the Natives, so they invited them as well. Not wanting to come to the feast empty handed, the honorable

Natives hunted wild turkeys, and so meat accompanied the vegetables and the cereals. Everybody rejoiced, because the people who had very small chances of surviving the oceans and the wilderness have managed to beat the odds and be alive, together. And if that's not a reason to be thankful for, I don't know what is.

This impressive story of survival and collaboration, of divine intervention and collective action reminds me, reminds us that God is not only some abstract being that lives in the skies, He lives inside all of us and we are His instruments. We are the ones who can make things work properly, we're the ones who help and are helped by the others in our turn. This is why nothing in the world could be possible without God's decision and our action.

This meeting here could not have been possible without the participation of the following people, to whom I'd like to express my gratitude:

*Roxana and Adriana, the amazing hosts of this splendid place called "American Corner". Thank you for your kind reception since the first day of my arrival here. Thank you for your constant encouragement, for the interesting materials and for the fun I always have in your presence. I truly hope this is only the beginning of a beautiful collaboration and friendship.

*My pupils here present, who accepted my challenge and who put up with my constant bickering about meeting the deadline. I'm lucky to have discovered the treasures that are hidden inside all of you. Be sure that I'll do my best to take care of the treasures, as long as they are mine to keep. I wish you all the best of luck in life. If there's any advice I could give to you, this would be it: Surround yourself with good people, with true friends and clever advisors. Help the others as much as you can, how you can, and I assure you help will never be late to come to you.

*All my Guardian Angels, because I am now aware of the fact that I've got quite a few, being the harebrained person that I am. They are my parents, my friends, my mentors, my work colleagues, my doctors ... everybody who has made a good difference in my world at a certain point in my life. I can only hope that I'll get to be *their* Guardian Angel one day and repay their favor, at least partly.

I really believe that Thanksgiving is not just some American holiday, a celebration that we Romanians have nothing in common with. The idea of being thankful for the things we have, for the friends we have, for the life we have should be universal. Miracles happen to us every single day; we just have to become aware of them and never take them for granted.

Teacher,
Andrei Ana-Maria

“On Thanksgiving Day
Which is today
I just want to say
“Thanks”
To my best friends
To my parents, colleagues, teachers
‘Cause they helped me in tough moments
Whenever I felt sad, I had them by my side
They took me for a ride
They unburdened my mind
Made me forget all my problems
That darkened my face
Especially to my best friends
I want to say “Thanks”
‘Cause their help was a blessing.”

“This blessed day
Is a way
To give our thanks.
Anyone who is in pain
If you feel bad
And you are sad
Learn precisely
To say “Thanks” nicely
To who was there for you;
An important thing
Is to think about them
Don’t forget anyone
Because no one is alone
Every one of us
Can give a good advice
If a friend’s in trouble
We need to help them get over it.”

Ioan Ursu, 12E

“Dear Mother,

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Birthday, Mom! Thanks for all the beautiful, useful and good advice that you’ve always known how and when to give to me... thank you for the way you’ve raised me, for the way you’ve taught me how to behave in society. You have also helped me to cope with all life’s obstacles and overcome them, one by one. Today is your birthday as well, and I’d like to take the opportunity to wish you good health, and may God keep you here with us for as long as possible. To me, you are my guardian angel here on Earth, who continues to guide me and who constantly gives me good advice; you’re the one who always knows how to offer a shoulder that I can cry on whenever my heart feels heavy with sadness. I can say in all honesty that I’m extremely lucky that you are my mother... Thank you very much for all the sacrifices I know you constantly make in order to improve my life. Thank you for the beautiful words of wisdom that I’ve received from you every time I needed. Thanks, Mother, for the beautiful and warm smile which gives me courage to face anything, any danger. I love you, Mom, and I’d like to say “Happy Birthday” from the bottom of my heart. I know that you know the fact that to me you are that candle which lit my path in life, the light that never dies; I hope it never will.

Happy Birthday, dear Mother!”

Cezar Tănase, 12E

“I’d like to give my thanks to my pal Andrei.

It all started on a warm summer morning. I was preparing to go on holiday with my family. My friend Andrei visited us and asked me if he could go with us. It was strange, because he usually isn’t so persistent, but, I don’t know, that time it all felt different. When we said ‘Yes’ he was extremely happy, he kept laughing and jumping all over the place.

After a very pleasant journey, we finally arrived at our destination. The second day, Andrei and I decided to go hiking through a very big and thick forest. We took some luggage and soon enough entered the woods. It was not long before we saw something moving in front of us. We thought it could be a deer or something, so we decided to follow it and maybe take a picture to show our parents and our Biology teacher at school. The animal probably sensed it was being followed, so it started to sprint through the trees. Not wanting to lose it, we started to run as well.

During a moment in which I wasn’t careful, I slipped on a patch of wet grass and I fell in a ravine, breaking my leg. Andrei had a brilliant idea. He brought branches and tied them to my leg with his spare t-shirt; he brought other two branches for me to use as crutches, supporting my weight. Slowly, we made our way back to the mountain resort, to my family and to safety. Afterwards, I was examined by the doctors and everything was alright.

Because of that, I want to thank my friend Andrei because he never left me when I really needed him. He knew how to give me a helping hand...or a leg, in this case...”

Ionuț Cicovanu, 12 E

“Dear Mother,

I’m writing this letter for all the days when I should have talked to you and stayed with you longer.

I wish to thank you for all the good things I asked you to do for me, even if I didn’t deserve them all. I thank you, dear Mom, because you stayed by my side when I wasn’t very considerate to you. Thank you for all the teas you’ve made for me when I had the fever and the flu, for the first ever Christmas Tree, for the door you opened for Santa each year, for the first holiday at the sea, for the first trip to the mountains, and for guiding my steps during my school years. You were there for me in all the important moments of my life.

I appreciate you, Mom, for the sacrifices you’ve made; it’s only now that I truly understand them. I now recognize you for what you really are: my guardian angel, the angel who guides me and lights my path. You’ve taught me what’s good and what’s wrong, you’ve taught me the true meaning of the words “help” and “devotion”, and for that I’ll be forever thankful.

I’m sorry, Mom, for all the times when I didn’t listen to your good advice, when I ignored your words. I can’t change the past, but in the future I hope to make you proud of me.”

Claudiu Simion, 12E

“This year, the Thanksgiving Day is a very special one for me. I have many things to be thankful for.

I’m thankful because my brother is in good health after the surgery that he has undergone this spring.

I’m also thankful because the autumn was even more generous to us than in the previous years. A large quantity of fruit, vegetables and cereals are now stored into our pantry and our granary.

On September, the 15th, I returned to highschool for my final year. I just can’t wait to pass my final examinations next summer! After that, a whole new life will begin for me.

I’d like to take the opportunity to thank my parents for choosing to enroll me in a school outside our village. Their decision couldn’t have been more right, because this way I’ve learned to become more independent, to be a mature man (well, *almost* man...).

Last but not least, I’d like to thank my lovely aunt Maria. Thank you for being such a great support for me during all these years when I was away from home!

Thank you, Lord, for all these blessings!”

Cătălin Cucu, 12E

“Thanksgiving

I’d like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude towards the following:

-First of all, I’d like to thank all my colleagues for putting up with my whimsical nature and for accepting me the way I am. They showed me that in order to be a part of a group, you don’t necessarily need to radically change the way you are. After all, you know what they say: ‘*A friend is someone who knows all about you and still likes you.*’ ☺

-I’d also like to thank God for helping me to clear my mind. I’ve learned to look at the world exactly like it is, with good and bad parts. We wouldn’t be able to appreciate the good things without the bad situations.

-I’d like to give my thanks to the parents, because they’ve taught me and raised me in a good way. They always knew how to give me hope during my difficult times. They also protected me from harm. Thank you for loving me unconditionally.

-Last but not least, I’d like to thank my teacher, because I was invited here. She gave me the opportunity to express my gratitude in this letter.”

Ştefan Grigore, 12E

Dear Father,

I hope it is not too late to thank you for every single thing that you've made for me during my life.

Last summer, I made many mistakes and bad things which I now regret. In spite of all this, you stood by my side unconditionally, so today is the perfect time for me to express my thanks to you and to tell you how much I really love you.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the times when you gave me useful advice, thank you for the times when you were the only person in the world who understood and supported me when the rest of the world didn't. It all meant very much to me.

Thank you very much for the kind words that always gave me courage when I needed. You always seemed to know what and when to say to make me feel better.

Andreea-Iuliana Stan, 12E

“Thank You!

Thank You, Lord, for Your love! Thank You for listening to my prayers! Thank you for the wonderful family that You have given me, for the amazing brothers and the loving parents, who always take care of me and who work very hard. Thank You for the strength that You have given to us, so that we would have the things we need; nothing more, nothing less.

Lord, thank You for everything that surrounds me, for the beautiful nature that is pleasant to my eyes and soul; it reminds me that You have created everything and that You are worthy of praise.

Thank You, Lord, for the people who still believe that the world can be better, and who fight to make each day special. Thank You for the wonderful friends that I have got and who stand by me no matter what.

Lord, thank You, because You are extraordinary!

Thank You, Lord, for taking care of me and of those who are dear to me, for having protected us from bad things, and for teaching us the meaning of life here, on Earth and of the life beyond that.”

Daniel Cănilă, 12E

“I want to say ‘Thank you’ and to express my gratitude toward a person that I love, because she was always close to me through my joys and my sorrows, even if the distance between us is one of thousands of kilometers, because she supported me and offered nothing but the best to me and my brothers. Thank you, beloved Mother, you are the best and the dearest person in my heart and thought.

I also want to say “Thanks” to my best friend, with whom I have been sharing a friendship for more than 13 years. I’d like to thank him because his presence got me through thick and thin, and because he taught me the true meaning of the word ‘friendship’.”

Codrin Ionuț Coțofană, 12E

Thanksgiving Jokes

Q: Why do turkeys always go ‘gobble, gobble, gobble’?	A: Because they never learned table manners.
Q: How does a space turkey go?	A: Hubble, Hubble, Hubble.
Q: Who is not hungry at Thanksgiving?	A: The turkey, because he’s already stuffed.
Q: What sound does a turkey’s ringtone make?	A: Wing, wing, wing.
Q: In what country is Thanksgiving ironically not celebrated?	A: Turkey.
Q: What do you call the age of the pilgrim?	A: Pilgrimage.
Q: What is Thanksgiving called for selfish people?	A: Thankstaking.
Jimmy: ‘Mmm, that turkey smells absolutely delicious! How long will it be until it’s ready?’	Mother: ‘About the same length it had right before I put it in the oven.’

