June 1, 2009

Dear Nipun,

My students continue to share stories about how much your speech affected them. Enclosed are thank you notes from some of our ninth graders. I am so grateful for all that you do in this world – and for your ongoing relationship with our students and our school. I leave early Wednesday morning for three weeks in Africa but after my return I’ll come spend a few Wednesday evenings with you. It’s a joy to be in your presence.

Best,

Roma

p.s. By the way, I’m taking *Smile* cards with me, with the intentions of sharing them with others whom I’m meet along the way.
thank you
mr. mehta
Dear Nipun,

Your talk really inspired. Your colorful anecdotes really made it easy to understand your message. One thing that really stood out to me was the idea that small acts can make a big difference. I experienced this lesson first-hand just 2 hours after your talk. During 5th period, I left class in order to audition for the higher level band. However, when I returned the class was already over. I hadn’t cleaned up all my materials and I was worried I would be late for my class. But, to my surprise, someone had cleaned all my stuff for me and left a “smile” card. In that moment, I understood how a small act of kindness can really change a person’s day. Thank you for spreading this enlightening message. You have changed the way I look at life.

Sincerely,
Saleil Bhat
DEAR NIPUN,

I CAME INTO THE LOS ALTOS THEATER THINKING YOUR SPEECH WAS GOING TO BE A COMPLETE WASTE OF MY FREE PERIOD, BUT I WAS WRONG. LISTENING TO YOU WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PERSPECTIVE CHANGES I'VE HAD IN MY WHOLE LIFE. I NEVER REALLY CARED ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS WERE AND I NEVER REALLY CARED ABOUT HOW MAKING OTHER PEOPLE HAPPY WOULD AFFECT ME. YOUR STORIES ENLIGHTENED ME AND CHANGED THE WAY I THINK. NOW INSTEAD OF BEING AFRAID OF WHAT I LOSE, I'LL THINK ABOUT WHAT IT IS I REALLY AM AFRAID OF LOSING.

I WAS CONSIDERING TO ERASE THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THIS NOTE BECAUSE IT KIND OF SOUNDS REALY Rude & SUPER MEAN, BUT IT WOULD TAKE AWAY THE AUTHENTICITY OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING TO LOS ALTOS AND SPEAKING. HOPEFULLY, ONE DAY, I CAN SHAKE YOUR HAND AND GIVE YOU A SMILE.

- MILENA L.
Dear Mr. Ajiun Mehta,

I loved hearing your stories about small acts of kindness. I especially liked the story about the time you walked into the dark alley and smiled at the guy and he smiled back. You mentioned something about meditation, and I went home and immediately meditated. I see what you mean about how busy our minds are!!

Thanks for coming!

Austin
It's a tree

For Nipun Mehta

Thank you for visiting LAHS and sharing your stories. I am going to plant a tree 😊.
05/13/09

Nipun Menthra,
Thank you very much for that very special talk. It really helped me understand that I was being selfish. I was really moved.

Tomorrow afternoon I will make lunch for a homeless person as an act of kindness.

Sincerely,
Liz Quintero
Dear Nipun,

I liked your speech. It is informal yet exciting. I liked the part when you talked about your fear walking in an alley and the homeless invading a girl's privacy. The expressions you used are neat. It expresses the clear point that you are trying to prove. It looks to me that you thought out every word and action. There is one question I have for you. Is the story of the homeless guy true? And do you think it will work if I tried it?

Sincerely, Andrew Lit (Andrew Lit)
Dear Mr. Menta,

Thank you for coming to our school and speaking to us about kindness. You have inspired me to pay for the people behind me in line. Thanks again.

Vannie Frates
TO: Nipun Menta
FROM: Julie Zhu from Ms Hammel's 7th period English class

Thank you for giving a presentation on how to change the world one step at a time through small acts of kindness and beliefs attracted the attention of the audience. I included the tales and stories you told were amusing, which won you the admiration of many. You declare statements with confidence, giving strong, personal examples to support your claims. But what really inspired me was the story of the millionaire who had everything but was not satisfied with himself. I bet that had inspired everybody. After the presentation, I received much feedback about how they are motivated to do acts of kindness to change the world. I'm really grateful for you, taking time out of your busy schedule, to talk to us.

Really Appreciate it. 😊

- Julie Zhu
Thank You

Dear Nipun Menta,

Thank you for the talk you gave us yesterday. It really inspired me to be a better person.

I have a friend whose mother is a cancer patient, and I want to make her a cake this weekend. I know the cake will not make her forget about her illness, but at least she will know that other people are thinking about her. — Marien
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you for coming to visit our school! You are an inspirational speaker and an excellent storyteller. I thought I might tell you what I plan to do because of your talk. I have never fully thanked my best friend for being there for almost a decade, and since I know she often forgets her lunch, I will make her one of her favorites. There's also a boy in my class who complains often that no one has done anything for him. He told me once that he's never had a PB&J sandwich (not allergic); I think I'll make him one.

Thank you for the courage you've given me to take action!

Alyssa.
Dear Nipun Mehta:

Thank you for coming and speak to us. I liked your story about the girl who shaved her head just to be like for a kid not to fill alone. It was very meaningfull because it shows the thought and kindness towards others who may be left alone just because of their appearance.

thank you:

sincerely;

Karen Serrano
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you so much for presenting at my school.

You inspired me to thank and appreciate the people around me and to take the time to do something nice for them. After your speech, at home, I wrote a letter to my good friend who is always there for me — also, the next day, I thanked the school security guards and lunch ladies and told them that they're AWESOME!

- Lauren Mok
Dear Nipun,

Thank you so much for coming to talk to our school. I found all of your stories interesting and inspirational. I especially like the story that you thought you were going to be mugged. I think it's amazing how much happier you can be if you can just let go of your material possessions and not get stressed out about small things.

From, Evan Detering
To Nipun Mehta,

Thank you for coming and speaking to us. I really liked all the stories you told us, especially the one about your friend and how he pretended he was with the girl that the homeless guy had been a bit too close to her. That was a very kind thing for him to do, (like a knight in shining armor)! The speech was interesting to listen to, it kept my interest. Those random acts of kindness seem to be a lot of fun to do, it would be fun to see the happiness or bewilderment on peoples faces when they are shown kindness by a random person. Thank you for coming to talk to us about it, it was interesting and made me think about something I never really thought all that much about.

Thank you!

From Sophia Chan ☻
Dear Mr. Nimita,

Thank you for coming to our school to give us your speech. Your story that appealed to me the most was the one where this person shaved her head for her friend. This has made me see many different sides of a kind gesture.

Your speech was very inspiring and I will always think of your stories.

Thank you,

Nikita N.
Dear Nipun,

Your presentation was phenomenal, your stories were touching. I also feel the same way about money ever since I started to put on concerts for people in Africa and all over the world. And to be able to do those things, I need money. I also just want to travel and find a paradise to settle in. But now I feel I will do the right thing, and do whatever I can to make all different whether it's big or something as small as saving an ant from water. I don't really want to be a millionaire because I've learned that other people need it way more than I do. I respect you, Nipun. You should be honored in a way I personally can't describe. Maybe one day you will hear a man named Tony Hughes on the Radio, hopefully saying that he's raised over millions of dollars for the world, to give out to the people who need it. I will give out my money to who I want or feel like giving out.

Thank you, Nipun!

PS. I would write it anonymous but I already mentioned my name.
Dear Nipun,

I was very moved when you told us stories about doing nice things. I never thought a single smile could change the situation, and I was impressed when you gave away your money, because not everyone could do that. Is this your life's dream though? To help people knowing they might not help you back? I might not know if you get credit for your work, but I just want to congratulate you on your achievement.

From Solomon L.
Dear Nipun,

Thank you for coming to Los Altos Highschool and spreading your wisdom. You taught us that life is this huge dilemma that everyone has to go through, and that when you can create a win-win situation, like your smile cards & random acts of kindness. The story about the young woman being harassed by the homeless man was my favorite, because it really proves that the things in life make a difference.

-Madison Oatley.
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you for coming to talk to us! We all really enjoyed your inspiring stories and words. I think we will all go and do a small act of kindness for someone!

Sincerely,

- Fodie
Dear Nipun,

Thank you for inspiring me to think about my way of life. People all around me are always doing things for ME, and they never expect a thank you in return. People deserve to be thanked. And a simple smile can brighten up someone's whole day.

I can really relate to the story about your friend who got a negative written note on her car about her driving. Sometimes on Facebook, someone will post a picture, and there's always someone with something negative to say. The negative comment then causes everyone to get involved, and huge fights occur over something as trivial as a Facebook picture. However, if someone had said, "Hey great picture!" (✿◠‿◠), then it would have spurred a whole trail of nice comments, causing the person on the receiving end of the whole debacle to be happy instead of upset and sad.

One small act of kindness goes a long way—you proved that just by taking time out of your schedule to make an appearance at our school.

so...Thank you (✿◠‿◠)!!!

Michayla Hart
Matt
Dear Nipun,

I really enjoyed your story about the millionaire from Harvard who was on the verge of suicide. When he read that book, he didn't really remember the huge egotistical actions that people did for him, but he just remembered one student, who took ten minutes from his time to help him find a building. The insights from this story really shined through. It shows the in one's moment of weakness, it's the small things that really matter. This is also another reason that shows even the tiniest of acts can make a difference in someone's life. Thank you for your wonderful stories and experiences.

Michael Liu
Dear Mr. Mehta, Thank you for speaking with our class about your really cool ideas. I liked your story about the man in the alley and it inspired me to smile everyday. Your ideas made me think about all the good I am capable of and I will do what I can to make at least one person feel good.

Thanks,
Will
Nipun,

Thank you for coming to our school and sharing your stories with us. In my opinion I think that smile cards are a really good invention because they could really make a person who is having a really bad day feel a lot better.

I really like the story about the girl who asked her dad to shave all her hair off just so one of the kids of her school would feel much better about himself. I thought that was really sweet of her.

Alejandra Michiel
Dear Nipun,

Thank you for taking time out of your day to speak with us. The stories you shared with us has influenced us to do small kind things to others. You taught us how small acts of kindness can make a person feel better and tell over the dinner table.

Sincerely,

Kelly La Poll
Smile

My dear friends,

Thank you so much for coming to speak to our class. I really enjoyed hearing what you had to say about the Power of Small. Today, so many people feel the need to do something big, we forget how big small acts of kindness really are. I really enjoyed your last story about the girl who shaved her head for the boy with leukemia. It was so sweet & very inspiring. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Kay
Dear Nipun,

I very much enjoyed your speech today. The story you told about the man in his hotel room really caught me. I really connected with the story because whenever I'm sad, though I've never been suicidal, I always try to look back onto the last time someone has done something really kind for me and it always makes me feel so much better. I really do agree with your philosophy of giving love in order to receive love and I try to live that way every day.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Thank you for coming! I'm sending flowers to my teacher because of you. Have a great life! Your stories are incredible.

thanks
from,
Katie ♥
Dear Nipun,

Thank you so much for taking your time to come to our school and to teach us the value of kindness. I especially like your story about the man who did one nice thing every day for three years. It really made me think about how helping a person can lead to the ultimate happiness. This story about finding true love by doing good things is very inspiring. It has motivated me to start doing one good thing a day for someone I may not even know. I know I will feel good when I help a person and knowing that they feel good too will make my day and theirs! Thank you—Alexie Ogonowski
Dear Nipun,

I must admit, your speech at the Eagle theatre was so inspiring. The day before your speech I was a little bummed that I wasn't going to have a free period to work on my homework. But then you started talking about your own experiences, and others too. I thought that all your stories were so inspiring, my favorite story of your whole speech was about the girl that asked her dad if she could shave her head, then when she finally did, she didn't so the boy at her school didn't feel lonely because of his leukemia. I really loved the message you sent out to the audience, that it shouldn't be about "me, me, me," but it should be about the world. I really hope you can come next year to Los Altos High School and speak again.

~ Jasmine Benito
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you for coming to share your life story. And persuade us to help others.

Sincerely,

Diana Serrano
Dear Nipun,

Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to come and speak to us! By coming to speak, you inspired me and so many others to start serving those around them. I really liked the story of the man who was about to commit suicide, but then this one book reminded him of when someone took ten minutes out of their day to help him find a building he was looking for. It's so cool that that small, simple act of kindness changed his life in such a dramatic way. I am so grateful for all of your stories that you told, and hope to begin serving the people around me. You taught me that even something simple can make such a big difference. Thank you again for all you have done, for you have caused so many others to feel happiness through your deeds.

Sincerely, Katriona Williams
Dear Nipun Mehta,
Thank you so much for coming to talk to us yesterday. I think it’s so great that you started this whole organization to help others. I loved your presentation! I loved the stories about the people getting married and the sweet little girl who shaved her head. Your speech really made us think. Keep up the kindness!

- Nadia
Nipun,

I liked your presentation and your invention of the smile cards. If there was something better that you could have done it would have been involving students in your presentation. But overall I like the specific details you mentioned, stories, and your accomplishments. Your stories and your way to teach your experiences motivate me and others.

- Noel Angel

P.S. keep it up!
Nipun -

Thank you! For coming to my school [CLAHIS] and thanks for teaching us about making someone's day better. I am going to use the smile cards.

[Signature]

Gaby
Dear Nipun,

I really enjoyed hearing the stories you told. The story I liked most was the hobo story because it was really cute! You also really inspired me with the stories about the boy doing nice things for other people for 3 years and the girl who shaved her head so that boy with cancer didn't feel sad and lonely and embarrassed about it. I especially connect with that one because my cousin lied cancer when we were younger and she was my best friend and then she died. I really appreciate you sharing your experiences with us, you really inspired me.

Thank you! 😊

Ali Dewar
Los Altos High School, CA
Dear Nipon,

Hi, my name is Pierre. I just wanted to thank you for speaking at our school. Your speech & idea really spoke to me, and I think you’re striving for a very good cause.

Keep fighting the good fight.

- Pierre
Dear Nipun,

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak to the Suryey classes. The story you told about the girl shaving her head to prove that the boy with cancer wasn't alone. It was really inspiring. Thank you for starting this organization. I will continuously try to give out those smile cards with random acts of kindness.

― Lauren
Dear Nipun Menta,

Thank you for coming to our school to tell us your stories. I really liked the story about the girl who shaved her head to support her classmate. All your stories were very inspiring and amazing. Thanks again.

-Jenny Kiyano
Nipun,

Thank you for speaking about your stories and some nice things you have done. I learned a lot from you about how one can change one's life.

Ronan
Hi, Nipun,

Thank you for coming to speak today at school. It was really inspiring to think about how small acts of kindness can really make a big difference in a person's life. I think I am also going to try the "one act of kindness per day" challenge. I was really affected by your speech and I think I will make a change in my perspective of kindness in my life.

From, Chris
Nipun Mehta,

Your presentation was amazing. Your experiences were wonderful. I really enjoyed hearing the story about the girl and how the hobo approached her. Then a guy stood there and helped her. Then they got married.

I also liked the one about the girl shaving her head so the person with leukemia wouldn't feel alone. I hope that you as well as others spread the word for the act of kindness. Hope your organization grows. My experience with the lady and her card made me feel good when I gave her bank card back. Thanks for inspiring me.
Dear Nipun,

Thank you so much for coming to our school and sharing your stories with us. I was very touched, and after your speech, I am inspired to do random acts of kindness, no matter how small they may be. I want to focus less on material things and devote a large part of my life to helping other people and making a difference in their lives. I am very moved by you and the fact that you get happiness simply by seeing others happy. I enjoyed your speech so much!

Thank You!

Sincerely,
Allie Landes
Dear Nipun Mentha,

Thank you for taking your time out to talk to us. (: It was very inspirational! Have a nice life😊.

Signed

SAHAR❤️
Dear Nipury,

Thank you for giving that speech. It was really inspiring. What was the most inspiring story to me was the guy who did a nice thing every day to somebody. That was really. Maybe one of these days I'll do a ARK (A Random act of Kindness) to a total stranger.

Peter
Nipun,

Thank you for sharing your wonderful stories with us. I really felt like I understood your whole point with this smile card. It does really take one smile to brighten someone's day. I once got a smile card when I got back to class. I felt really happy, knowing that there was someone who saw that I was having a bad day. Thank you so much again, but now it’s my turn to do a small thing that can change a community.

Sincerely,

Amarzani Lopez
Dear Mr. Nehta,

Thank you for coming to our school & sharing your stories with us.

- Emily N.
Dear Nipun Mehta,

Thank you for coming to speak to our school. Your speech was amazing. I learned a lot about kindness from you, and from now on, I am going to try to do something nice for someone everyday.

From,
Shaban Rehwa
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you for taking the time to talk to our class. I know that it inspired me to try to do something nice and I'm sure that many others were affected the same way.

-Hanna Lauterbach
THANKS

for everything, Nipun Mehta.
Dear Nipun Mehta,

Thank you for your wonderful speech/talk. I liked the story of you jogging, and you and the big man smiled at each other.

THANKS

- Rami
Dear Nipun Mehta,

Thank you so much for coming, you're so inspiring and I really believe this world needs more people like you. Your stories reminded me of the movie Pi (also about acts of kindness). Thanks for being so amazing.

Sincerely,

Roslyn Braun
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you for coming and being so inspirational. I really loved your stories because they each taught me a life skill/lesson. Thank you again.

From ~ Radhika Behl
Dear Mr. Mehta,

It was really fun listening to you speak. I wouldn't say that you changed my life forever but you did make me think about kindness. It seems that small is the new big.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for taking time to talk to us and I hope that you could come again.

-Lucas.
Dear Mr. Mehta,
Thank you so much for coming to speak to our school this week. You were really inspiring. Since your speech, I have given flowers to one of my neighbors, and I have emailed some old friends. Your talk really made me see things in a new light, and now I realize how much I have to give.
Thank you,
Gabriella Seltzer 😊
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you for coming and speaking to us. I was inspired by the college experience that you talked about when you thought you would get mugged.

--Saeny

Why
Thank you for coming to Los Altos High, Mr. Menta.

I really enjoyed your stories, especially the one about the guy who stood up for his soon-to-be wife.

Thanks,

- Toni M. Keck
Dear Mr. Mehta

Thank you so much for coming to our school. I really liked your style of story telling and I found all of them very interesting.

Bobby
Dear Mr. Mehta, thank you for taking your time to come to school and telling us your story.

Sincerely,
Harry Rojas
Dear Mr. Menta,

Thank you for coming to our school and talking to us and showing us the act of kindness. Sincerely,

Aimee 😊
Thank You

Dear Nipun Mehta,

Thank you so much for taking the time to visit Los Altos High. The speech you gave was amazing and I will always remember your story of the girl who shaved her head for the kid with cancer.

Thanks again,
Alex Crone
Dear Nipun,

Your name is RAW! I am Joe and I enjoyed your visit to our high school and telling us about do kinds things.

- Joe

Garcia
Dear Mr. Nipun,

thank you for coming to our school and telling us about your wacky and wonderful stories. I like the one where you encountered the large man in the alley and smiled at him, making him smile back.

Good times

THANKS,

ETHAN
Thank you very much for taking the time to come to our school and motivate us to change the world and to never stop doing kind things for the people around us. We really appreciate everything you told us because that really motivated us that even if we're teens we can still change the world.

- Fernando
Dear Mr. Mehta,

I learned about RANDOM Acts of Kindness in elementary school (Living Wisdom School - Palo Alto) and really loved the idea. We also did lots of meditation at that school. However, I haven't made small acts of kindness a regular habit. Thanks for speaking at our school because you reminded me about it and I'm going to try now to practice this in my life. I really enjoyed your speech and stories; I hope you continue bringing your message to schools.

Thanks A Bunch! Reeve
Dear Ms. Wentz

Thanks for coming to our school. I really liked your story about the scary big man in the dark alley.

Thanks again

[Signature] Arizona
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you very much for coming to our school and sharing your inspirational stories with us. Since your speech I have been finding ways to make someone else's day a little brighter.

Sincerely,

Marie de Alcuaz
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you so much for coming to 2AHS. Your stories on kindness has inspired me about the ways of wrongdoing (should change, and I love your take on medication and I've tried it - works wonders. Because of you I've learned that even small acts of kindness can make a difference.

- [Signature]
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Um, thanks. Your kind and ongoing example has inspired me to be the change I would like to see in the world from holding doors open to playing board games with my sister, and generally more sensitive to the needs of others. For forcing me to re-evaluate how I interact with others. Thanks.

Kevin Stoyl

[Signature]

P.S.
Dear Mr. Nipun Mehta,

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your life to talk to us about the extreme importance of kindness. Your speech has inspired me to be excessively benevolent and how brightening a person's day will have a chain reaction through society. I am a member of the JV Baseball Team, and about a week ago, the Varsity Baseball Team was bombarded with water balloons. Determined to get them back, we decided that on Friday we would put laxatives in their gator-ade. Although this would have been fun, your speech has showed me that a prank of kindness would not only show better character, but would also envelope them with guilt. I hope you keep doing what you are right now.

Thank You

Audun Johnson
Dear Mr. Menca,

Thank you for coming to our school in order to share some of the wonderful experiences of your life and now what you've done has changed other people's lives. I especially liked that one instance where you were telling how a man was about to commit suicide, but then saw the title of a book he took and remembered someone's random act of kindness. Your speech has inspired me to thank someone for the kindness they have shown me continually throughout this year. I hope that many more people may hear your message.

Sincerely,
Catherine
DEAR MR. MANTO

THANKS to you I can see things differently, now I am more generous. I really think you made a difference in our school and our minds. You made a lot of us think about our lives' future. Thank you for coming and taking time for us.

- Joel
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you so much for taking the time to come talk to our school. I was very inspired by everything you said, and have already done something nice for someone. I wrote a thank you card to my first dance coach to thank them for everything. - Kristina Volovich
Mr. Menta:

Thank you for coming to talk with us earlier! Your speeches were very inspirational and I left feeling like a different person. I will be sure to leave nice acts for those around me. Because of your speech, I remembered a kindergarten teacher whom I never thanked, but I'll be sure to thank her.
Dear Mr. Mehta,

Thank you for coming to our school! Your stories were very inspirational. I have decided to do all the activities on the car. Sometimes people just need things to do to get started.

Thanks again, Annalise T.
Dear Nipun,

I am letting you know that I appreciate you stopping by our school to enlighten all of us with your breathtaking stories on how the smallest things affect this gigantiz world.

sincerely,

Johnny Henriquez
Dear Mr. Mehta,

thank you for taking the time and coming to talk to us. You have inspired us all with your beautiful stories. I have seen people do very nice things for each other and leave SMiLE cards. اَنْتُمُّ ِتاَكِهنِيَتْنَيْلاَكَ

Love,

Brianna