

Some years ago, as a classroom teacher, I received an interesting gift from a student in my class. I was moved by the gift, a card with a note that read, "A donation has been made to *local charity* in your name." I felt honoured, supported and had the knowledge that a needy person directly benefited from the gift.

Nancy, an Immanuel Christian School parent, has shown some real energy and leadership in creating a similar opportunity. In this case the recipient will be Immanuel or some part of Immanuel.

Nancy's project, at least the way I imagined it, will give parent an easier option in finding a gift that is valued by that person of ultimate authority in their child's life - "But my teacher said..." Nancy wants to give parents an option. Or as Nancy says while pointing to her hops, "Which teacher needs another box of chocolates!"

Some parents know the teacher well enough that they can easily pick out a well matched gift. Others don't know the idiosyncratic likes or dislikes of the teacher.

Nancy's project equips parents with a list of possible gifts that will enhance the classroom. The parent will have the satisfaction of knowing their child is bringing a gift of value.

This is more than a win/win situation. It is a win/win/win/win situation. The parent wins by not being stressed. The child wins by bringing a gift. The class wins by having something that will enhance learning. The teacher wins by feeling appreciated.

God gave his Son as a gift to us. There is no greater gift.

"The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:12-13 NIV Bible