

Dear Sara and Betsy,

I want to thank you both for coming to our schools and presenting not one but three times to quite a variety of audiences. Your presentations on “The Brain and the Learning Process” definitely sparked some interest in brain-based learning techniques and BrainWare Safari.

Our teachers and parents now have a better appreciation for how neuroscience research has begun to reveal many of the brain’s secrets most significant of which is its ability to change and to develop stronger, more numerous connections. These connections are evidence of learning. As parents and educators we need to understand this process and the importance of these neural connections because they give rise to cognitive skills and enable our children to take in, process, understand and remember. That point was clear in all your presentations.

Your presentation was well received even by some of those who tend to be our harshest critics of professional development activities. They found some information a refresher from school and other information was new to them; they encountered suggestions on better incorporating what they know into their teaching. Our elementary school teachers particularly found the material most engaging and useful.

The techniques that you provided as a simple model of the brain, the function of different parts of the brain as well as how it develops, age and gender differences, the uniqueness of every brain, and how to build on strengths and weaknesses made it clear that educating and raising children can be guided by what neuroscientists are learning about our brains.

Thank you again for an outstanding series of presentations.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Cosgrove". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Sandy Cosgrove, Director of Education, Fairmont Schools