**RETIREMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DIANNE NEVAREZ**

Hello everyone and thank you for this very nice “send-off!” (**If you want to make a joke, you can say**) If I knew we’d have this kind of a celebration, I would have considered retiring earlier! (**And wait for the laugh**). I want to thank all of you for the consideration and cooperation you’ve extended throughout my tenure here at Rancho Los Alamitos High, and that goes for all departments. The good news is that there are just too many people to name individually.... I sincerely thank all of you, but I’d like to recognize some of you. To Principal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Vice Principal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for leading the way and doing your best to manage **MANY** moving parts. It certainly is not easy to coordinate and oversee the day to day running of a busy, vibrant atmosphere like we find at this school, but somehow, the teamwork in the Principal’s office got us through many “situations.” To the wonderful women who work in reception, attendance, counseling, I want to thank you as well for your cooperation throughout many school terms.... after all, I have consider Rancho Los Alamitos my “school home” for fourteen years. I’m glad that all of you in that office do your best to be **PRESENT** and to support the staff. To Liz, our secretary, thanks for doing whatever possible to keep all of those moving parts on schedule, and for keeping all of us up to date on news and information, and in close communication with the Principal’s office. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the nursing department, thank you for being there when emergencies or illness hit. Your help has made a difference in the lives of everyone in this building (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) in fact, with all this excitement, I just may have to come and visit and get something for this headache! (**And wait for the laugh**). To all my fellow teachers and my colleagues in the world languages department, thank you for teaching me something new every day. As teachers, sometimes we forget to really listen to the lessons all around us.... I know that I have learned so much from my time here, and each student, each situation, each challenge has made me a better teacher and a more aware, alert person.

In so many ways, teachers are the “unsung heroes and heroines” of the educational system. I am proud to be a teacher, I want to thank all of the students, fellow educators, and defining moments that made me stronger and better at my job.

It’s been said that “Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers... not methods or techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system.” I would like to think that, as they look back, that I will be remembered by curious, enthusiastic, eager students... that’s the legacy we aim for. I know there are several who have left a lasting impression on me...

Once again, thank you for all of your support and encouragement throughout the years... thank you for allowing me to make a difference in the lives of young people.... after, they are the future... and thank you all for this lovely acknowledgement!