



## Jason Mark Whiting

September 21, 1966 - November 6, 2015

On Friday, November 6th, the world became a darker place when Jason Whiting lost his six month battle with leukemia. He passed peacefully and with his loving family by his side.

Although he was forced to make many sacrifices as a result of his disease, which made him weak and kept him from being able to do the things he loved to do, he would never complain and remained the determined, hopeful, and positive soul that he was until the very end.

Jason attended Mission San Jose High School in Fremont then later received his Bachelor's degree from UC Davis. After college, he received his law degree from UC Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. He was a corporate lawyer for several years before deciding to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. So he left his successful job in law to work towards obtaining his Multiple Subject Teaching Credential at San Jose State University. This shows the true character of Jason - to leave his successful job as a lawyer to change careers to inspire students with his love of learning.

Jason taught sixth grade at Gomes Elementary School in Fremont for several years and had been teaching sixth grade at Warm Springs Elementary School in Fremont for nearly a decade. Jason, or Mr. Whiting as his students know him, touched many lives and influenced many of his students. Besides

teaching the required curriculum, he knew that being a good teacher involved going beyond academics and instilling in his students the importance of being a good person and building strong moral values. He was more than just a teacher to his students - he was their friend, their confidante, and their supporter in pursuing their own personal dreams. He fostered a sense of family and community in his classroom which enabled his students to feel safe and valued for the unique individuals that they are.

Jason was his usual thoughtful, kind, and funny self right to the end. The world lost an incredible husband, soulmate, best friend, son, son-in-law (really more like a son) brother, brother-in-law (really like a brother) idolized uncle, great uncle (really great) cousin, teacher, colleague, mentor, coach, friend, and, really ... just an all-around great person. Jason is survived by his beloved and devoted wife Eden, his father Tom of Brentwood and mother-in-law Edna of Fremont, his brothers John (Karon) of Piedmont and Jared (Roxanne) of Pleasanton, sisters Judy (Kevin) Sollitt of Fremont and Jill (Scott) Sollitt of Livermore, sister-in-law Minna (Charles) of San Jose, many adoring nieces and nephews, and his faithful puppy companion Trixie. He was predeceased by his mother, Sally, and father-in-law Benjamin.

A Memorial Mass will be held for Jason on Monday, November 16th, 11am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 43148 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539. Memorial gifts in Jason's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)) and/or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ([www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org)).

# Tribute Wall

KG

“ Jason, I'm still feeling shocked that you are gone. You were the best uncle a girl could ask for. You were there for me during so many times when I was feeling sad and down. You counseled me through a few break-ups and you were always able to make me laugh as a kid and as an adult. You had the gift of making others feel at peace once they were heard by you. I miss you so much already and I know that our family will continue to miss you and feel incomplete in the years to come. Sometimes I feel very angry when I think about what the cancer did to you but I know that holding onto that anger for too long is dangerous and I also know deep down that you wouldn't want us to feel like that for long. I just want to tell you that I miss you and I hope that our family will continue to feel your presence so you can help us heal. Love, Katie

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**Katie Garcia** - December 08, 2015 at 11:01 PM

BJ

“ Dear Family of Mr. Whiting,

*It was a huge shock to hear the sad news about Mr. Whiting. My son and his classmates were truly fortunate to have Mr. Whiting as their sixth grade teacher. Mr. Whiting was a wonderful teacher and you could tell he cared about all his students.*

*On 6th grade graduation day, it was impressive to see how much his students wanted a memory of their teacher. Every one of his students wanted “just one more picture” with Mr. Whiting.*

*It doesn't seem fair that Mr. Whiting will not be there to teach and inspire future 6th graders at Warm Springs. I know that his past students all have wonderful memories of the way he touched their lives.*

*The Jensen Family  
(Eric -- Class of 2014)*

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**Bob Jensen** - November 16, 2015 at 09:21 PM

TC

“ Dear Mr. Whiting's family,

*Mr. Whiting was my son's favorite teacher, while in 5th grade he really wanted to be in Mr. Whiting's class, and he was delighted to be in his 6th grade class. After graduating from Warm Springs, he used to visit him. What a wonderful person he was, our family will fondly remember Mr. Whiting. Pray that God almighty will strengthen you till you meet him again in heaven.*

*Love and hugs,  
Cheruvellil family.*

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**Tina Cheruvellil** - November 16, 2015 at 05:28 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jason Mark Whiting.



November 16, 2015 at 10:30 AM



“ Dear Mr whiting's family, We are so sorry for your loss.. Mr whiting was an amazing teacher & a wounded full person may he Rest in peace & God bless his soul. We will mis himVery much.. From the Ibrahim family.



azizayassin - November 16, 2015 at 12:47 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Stephanie Li - November 15, 2015 at 10:09 PM

SL

*We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Whiting. He was absolutely the best teacher any child can ever have, my son was very fortunate to have him in his first year in Warm Springs. He transferred to Warm Springs Elementary in 6th grade, which is a difficult year to adjust since that is the last year in an elementary school. However, Mr. Whiting was warm and friendly, he quickly got acquainted with his class and enjoy going to the new school very much. Mr. Whiting always had a passion for the students that shined brightly and made them want to be the best student. My child and his classmates missed him very much and all hoped to attend their favorite teacher's service tomorrow. He will truly be missed. May Mr. Whiting rest in peace and may his family find comfort knowing that he is home. God Bless.*

Stephanie Li - November 15, 2015 at 11:39 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jason Mark Whiting.



November 15, 2015 at 02:01 AM

LL

“ To Mr. Whiting's beautiful family which he always talked about,

*Mr. Whiting was more than just an amazing Teacher; he was a pillar of support, a guide, a friend, a mentor and now a Guardian Angel. He touched our Twin Boys lives in a very special ways and we will always treasure that in our hearts. We are thankful to God for the blessing us with human being like Mr. Whiting. May his Wife and Family find comfort in all the beautiful memories they have of him.*

*We will miss him,  
The Lopez Family*

Luis Lopez - November 14, 2015 at 02:51 PM

ML

“ Dear family and friends of Jason,  
I teach 2nd grade at Leitch School which is Warm Springs Elementary's sister school. I met Jason a few years ago when he joined our "2nd & 6th Grade Buddies" group where he and two other 6th grade teachers would bring their students to Leitch for joint activities with three of our 2nd grade classes.

I loved talking with Jason about my former students that were in his class and most recently about the trials of commuting from Livermore. I always found him to be warm and friendly, and a gentleman. Loved that he always came wearing a tie. From his comments about his students, I knew that my former students and the other kids were in very good hands, and that he loved them all.

In this small way he touched my life, but I have missed seeing him since he had to start his leave last spring, and I grieve for his passing now. Reading the tributes to him on his FB page have been very touching and inspiring. I hope you find solace in the wonderful memories that you all have of Jason.

With deepest sympathy and prayers,  
Maria De Luz

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**Maria De Luz** - November 14, 2015 at 08:02 AM

IL

“ The only word that I can think of when I think of Jason is Angel! He showed us what being a perfect human being would look like! I miss him soooo much:)

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**Indra Lynch** - November 12, 2015 at 05:37 PM

JU

“ I worked with Jason at John Gomes Elementary, He was part of our sixth grade team. He was an amazing teacher to his students and an outstanding friend to us. He always came with a positive outlook, a kind spirit, a funny sense of humor. He loved to laugh, be in on the jokes, and care for people. He was easy to talk with about anything, and he seemed like our brother from the start.

We were all really sad when teacher job positions were cut by seniority, and he had to leave Gomes, but we knew he would fly wherever he went. We also knew he would be content wherever he went because he was that kind of person. He always saw the bright side of life, and he made tons of friends wherever we went. It was truly our loss when he left our staff.

Jason talked about Eden all the time, and he just loved her so much. He loved to be a husband, brother, uncle, dad, teacher and friend to all. He just loved his family so much. I can only imagine the huge loss that you feel because we feel a huge one here, and we haven't worked with him for several years.

Whenever we would run into him, we would always run over for a hug and conversation. He was our friend for life, and we will miss him dearly.

I know he had a strong faith because we used to talk about it a lot. He is in God's hands now, and I know he has been reunited with his mother that he missed so much. May God bless his family and all the people in his life that he touched. We are praying for you, and know you are in our hearts at this very hard time.

Love, Julie Bruechert

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Julie - November 12, 2015 at 04:09 PM

SM

*Dear Family and Friends of Jason,*

*(And Dear Jason, I know you can see or feel this wherever you are, so I want you to pay attention to the part at the end).*

*I am Sarah De Marchi, a 6th Grade Teacher at Warm Springs. I knew Jason for about 6 years. I want to tell you a story about him.*

*Jason and I were asked to move grade levels to teach 5th grade for the 2010-2011 school year. I moved up from 4th, and he moved down from 6th. In order to manage the burden, we decided to team teach. He took my 5th graders for Social Studies (which was his passion), and I took his 5th graders for Science. This allowed us to worry about one curriculum, rather than have to learn both just for this one year. So, Jason and I would meet every now and then to discuss the business of teaching each other's kids.*

*That year, I had a light that somehow did it's own thing. When the lights were on, it would randomly turn on and off. They checked the wiring, and nobody could figure out what was wrong with it. Eventually, the students and I all just dealt with it.*

*One day, Jason came into my room, and he told me that he wasn't sure why he was there. He said that he had nothing to talk about, but for some reason, and he really didn't know why, he felt that he really needed to come in and talk to me.*

*We chatted a while, and, it was then that I told him that I was struggling quite a bit emotionally, and that I was so sad all the time, and every time I came to school, I would just break down sobbing. I told him that Brett, our Principal, suggested I go on medical leave. I said, I really wasn't sure, and I asked Jason what he thought about it.*

*Jason took a few moments, and kind of thought about it out loud. He then said, very decidedly, "I think you should go on medical leave. I think that's what you really need to do."*

*And then, suddenly, the light in my room that had been off all the while just turned on. We both noticed. We looked at it, instantly looked at each other, and said "Wow" in utter amazement. I can't remember if it was I or Jason who used the term "God Light" first. But we agreed that when the light came on, it was God agreeing with Jason that I needed to go on leave.*

*I did go on leave, and that leave changed my life.*

*From that day forward, any time Jason or I found ourselves in a*

*discussion of emotional, family or any type of life importance at all, we would always refer to the "God Light", and how we should consult with it to see what God was telling us to do.*

*We referred to it when he talked of Eden and him wanting children, when I needed to go on medical leave again, and finally when he was battling Leukemia, although I had no idea what he was going through.*

*Now, I know that many people knew Jason longer and more intimately than I (closer friends, family). And I feel that my little story of Jason is a very small piece of his life. And part of me is ashamed to make a big deal of my sadness when I know that so many others are so much closer to him than I ever was, and have so much more right to grieve. But this little piece of Jason, this tiny little "inside joke" was so special to me, so meaningful to my life, that I grieve for him very deeply.*

*Thank you for letting me show you the permanent mark that Jason left on my life.*

*Sarah De Marchi*

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**Sarah De Marchi** - November 12, 2015 at 07:39 PM