Being a teacher:

Do not wish for bright students, but for radiant children, and be grateful for each and every one of you who shares the path with you. They are the most valuable thing parents can entrust to you. Thou shalt guard them as the apple of thy eye, thou shalt protect them from all harm, and thou shalt treat them as precious stones and not as thy own image, created by thyself. Recognize their value and respect their being, and don't be fooled by the rough surface. Resist the temptation to make them shine in order to see yourself reflected in them in vain. Try to discover their own character and the spark of fire. And put everyone in the right light. And the sparkle in their eyes and the sparkle in their smile will be worth it.

(Erwin Mann)