

PARENTING



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

The students of St. Patrick's School in Seneca Falls hold a banner they all signed for rescue workers in New York City.

A show of support from Seneca Falls

Through a touching array of words and drawings, St. Patrick's School in Seneca Falls has sent spiritual support to Catholic-school students in New York City.

The package was to be sent to the schools superintendent, who would choose a recipient school.

Virtually all of the letters expressed sorrow at the tragic events of Sept. 11. Many St. Patrick's youths encouraged their fellow students to have faith and hope in God, and some letter-writers cautioned against angry feelings that give way to violent retaliation.

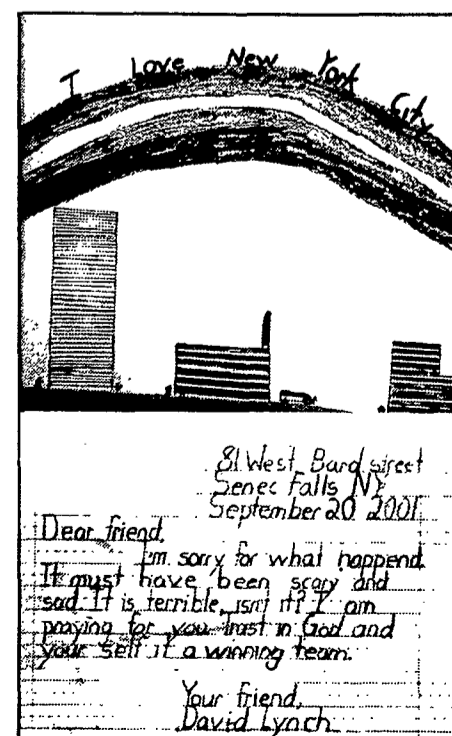
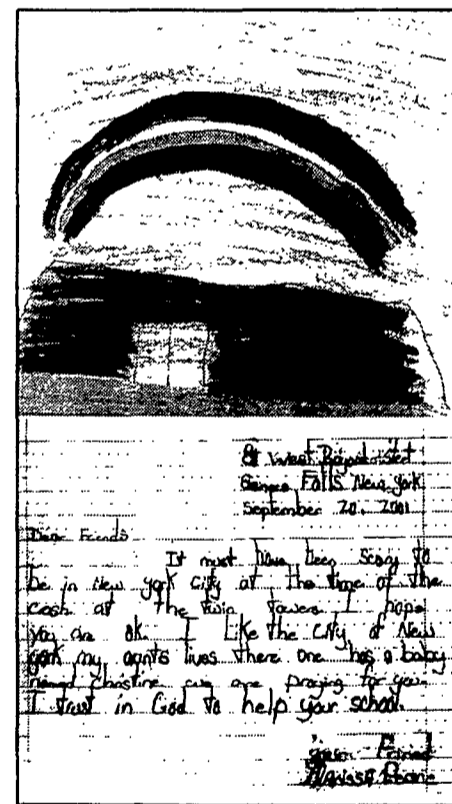
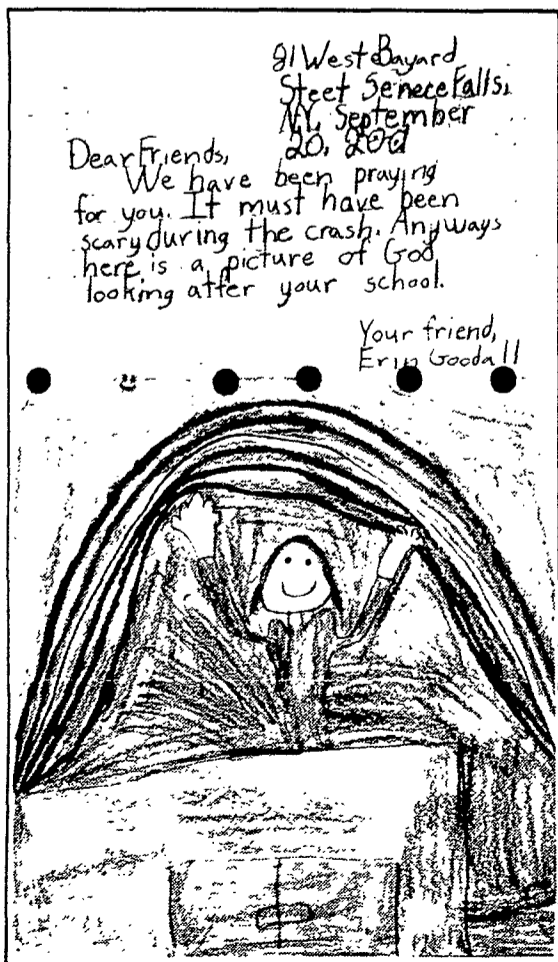
"The thought of people being killed because of hate is horrible. We need to fight hate with love," Maria Lorenzetti wrote.

"I want you to know that the whole country is behind you in this time of terror. In the future, I hope we can strive for peace and keep our country together," Matthew Quinn added in his letter. He and Maria are eighth-graders.

In an explanatory letter to recipients, Diana Oravec, St. Patrick's principal, noted that her school had been offering the rosary and other prayers for all who were affected by the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington. Oravec explained that St. Patrick's is a school for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade with 150 students, located in the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York.

"We wanted to let you know that there are other Catholic school students in the state who are praying for you and thinking about you," wrote Oravec, who also encouraged the receiving school to stay in touch.

— Mike Latona



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