

The Village School

A letter from Tabitha Gillam, School Parent, May 2015

I've said before how much I love our school but tonight I want to share some details. Tomorrow will be the School Play, and it is far from ordinary. Seeing the hours and effort put into this event by the teachers, parents, and members of the community leaves me amazed.

The 4-6 grades write the play with every student participating. For several weeks our children come home to us with homework to write lines for the play based on a theme the class has chosen. The play incorporates themes they studied all year (medieval history, including our trip to London and touring many great castles.)

As a parent it's really something to see the dedication the kids have to this project. In my home, playwriting is top secret, "No Mum you can't read my lines." Each morning every 4-6 student hands in their work to the teacher. At the end of each day teachers gather and read every student's work.

What happens next is a collaboration of students and our great teachers and that's where the magic happens! The teachers take lines from each student and begin to weave them together. After several weeks of this amazing effort the script emerges.

I'm so grateful to our teachers for their dedication to giving our children this opportunity to shine and create indelible memories. This is our daughter's last play with the Village School and there is much emotion about this in my home at the moment.

Most of the time the children get the very part they want, and they know their lines well, as they have written them. They spend time really learning and understanding their character. After the script is set, it's full steam ahead to design and produce costumes, sets, and music, with teachers and students working together.

George Bennett, our 4-6 Grade Teacher is one of my children's favorite teachers. He is so humble, yet he has made such an amazing impact in my children's lives--and mine. I love that when I take my children to school we are greeted daily with a smile from Rise, the Village School Director. I can see the respect, appreciation, and love our teachers have for each other. The dedication the school has to our children makes my heart overflow. It is not a big school so all of the school knows each of our children intimately, inside and out.

Every day, you give us a gift and we are given in return a front row seat. Sometimes we see things in our children we had not seen before—they're braver, stronger, funnier, and calmer. We see our children with new eyes as we see them grow into themselves.

Tomorrow night at the Play, I know I will see more than words can describe, and not just for my

children, but for all. I will be present and soak in every moment. I will take a moment to look around the room and see the expressions on everyone's faces, enjoying the excitement and energy of the audience. When the night comes to an end everyone will be happy, tired, and proud.

But most of all our children will be proud, and they should be. I'm looking forward to the unexpected moment that happens during the show and there is always one of those. I'm greatly appreciative of the effort made by all and I say, "Thank you for loving your jobs and for loving our children."