

Dear Aroha and Kingi,

I am writing to you to express on behalf of Thomas Acres PS, the students of 6K and myself, our sincere thanks and gratitude for allowing us to be a part of the Daystar's Literary Buddies Program this year.

Our involvement with this program has been a huge success for my Year 6 students. They have benefited from it in many numerous ways, both academically and socially. They have become engaged in, and interested in writing in a heightened way since commencing this program.

Academically, as their teacher I have seen significant improvements in my students' overall writing skills. Their grammar and punctuation usage has strengthened, their spelling skills have developed as they are becoming more and more conscience of the level of presentation of their correspondences. They are writing with greater description and imaginative vocabulary use. This program has given their need to learn to write better a purpose.

Also, their reading skills have shown improvement too. Less students are coming to me to read their letters to them. They are self-teaching themselves to read their own letters and find out unknown words and also their meanings.

Socially, all the children have benefited from having their buddies, but there are several students whom greatly benefit from having their buddies. They provide them with someone to interact with who genuinely takes their interest into heart and 'talks' with them in written form. These children appreciate having someone to share what's going on in their lives with, as their own backgrounds aren't as fortunate as our own. It also gives them hope for their futures, that there is a 'big world' out there that they can some day become a part of.

I have had to stick the program calendar up in the room for the student to see as they drive me nuts always asking when will letters be picked up, when will they respond. The children are genuinely excited and that isn't an easy thing to achieve with some of my students.

Again thank you for providing such a wonderful program for the students to engage in.

Kind Regards,
Jason Knobel.
Assistant Principal
Thomas Acres PS.