

Mackenzie Smith

Hi, my name is Mackenzie. I'm currently a grade nine student at CNHS but for the past 3 years I was a student at BMS. Before that I attended Bath Elementary. Despite the fact that as of this year I'm technically a Star, I will always be a Monquarter.

I was given so many opportunities at this school. I began playing volleyball here and am currently on the JV team at the high school because I had three years to develop those skills. I also played soccer here and again, I played this year at the high school. In grade seven, rugby was an option for me so I started playing then, and I'm still playing now. If it hadn't been for the fact that these extracurricular activities were offered at BMS and no kid was ever cut from a team, I would not be playing any sports in high school. If I weren't playing high school sports I wouldn't be as social as I am and I wouldn't be as confident in myself.

Besides the sports I played I was also one of four people who worked on the school's yearbooks for the past two years. I had the chance to put all of our memories here into a book that I can keep for many more years. Also, I got to travel to Fredericton last year to a math competition at UNB. I don't believe I ever would have had that opportunity if it weren't for the fact that my teacher believed I would learn from it and enjoy the experience. I can tell you now, that was easily one of my favorite days all last year. But again, it was because my teacher knew what I was capable of doing and since she had been able to have the one on one time with me that she did, she knew me well enough to know that I would jump at the chance. I think that relationship between a student and teacher is precious and irreplaceable.

This same teacher was the woman we owe a huge thank you to because she is the reason our school got to attend We Day in Halifax, once for some of us and twice for others. That whole experience taught all of us such amazing lessons. For some, it was about helping others, but for a majority of us it meant much more. It taught us compassion, empathy, hard work, perseverance and the fact that **anything** is possible. I think we proved that last year.

We raised \$18,000 last year! We raised the money so kids in Nicaragua could go to school because unlike us they don't have that privilege. Sure, we only had 42 kids, but we had the support of all the staff here and from our community. Our community supported us because just like every student enrolled here, they are Monquarters.

Not only did We Day teach us some of the most valuable lessons we will possibly ever learn, it also taught us that we do have a voice. And because of that, I am standing here and making mine heard. I'm not the only one, and I've put together a video so that a few other people's voices can be heard too.

We are more than just a cost, and we are more than just numbers displayed on your computer screen. We are people.