

For the past 4 years, I have spoken on behalf of the NG parents in praise of the amazing staff at New Gulph. This year, I am honored to speak to the sheer awesome-ness of the teachers in the Pre-School room. Wanting to do something new this year, I decided to take a different approach and actually get the dirt from the “mouths of babes” themselves- our children.

That’s right, this past week, I spent a couple of hours face to face with the pre-school kiddies, interviewing each one of them individually and out of earshot of their teachers, to find out exactly what they think is so special about their beloved NG teachers.

Here is what I learned:

We all know that 3, 4 and 5 year olds, *especially* NG 3, 4 and 5 year olds, are quite vociferous, and have little trouble expressing their opinions. That said, some of their comments, especially from the littlest ones, called for a wee bit of interpretation.

For example, when I asked 3 year old Jackson what he would buy as a present for **Miss Tracy** if he could get her anything in the world, he said a race car, but not just any race car, a race car that kicked up dirt. He stressed that three times. A race car alone would not seal the deal. It had to, HAD TO kick up dirt.

Jaden wanted to gift Tracy with not just one but **2** remote control dirt bikes. One remote control dirt bike would probably suffice for most, but for Miss Tracy, it had to be 2. Schaeffer was quite sure that Miss Tracy would love a cement truck, while Henry wanted to buy Tracy an Easter basket just like the one his Gramma and Grumpa got for him. And sweet Adrienne insisted on the purchase of a real life Princess for Miss Tracy because they are “beautiful”. Susan wanted to buy Miss Tracy a whole school bus...I mean that is LOVE!

These, I imagine, are the children’s’ favorite things in the whole world, things that they most likely would love to have for themselves. But, they love Miss Tracy so much; they would want her to have them.

Little Teddy, when asked if he could take Tracy anywhere in the world on a trip, where would he take her? Well to his house of course, for a play date. Tommy totally wanted in on that deal, and immediately included himself in on the invite. Celia would take her away on a luxurious trip to a “far away island” and Schaeffer would love to make sandcastles with Miss Tracy at the beach.

Miss Tracy is by all accounts someone with whom they love to draw, color and learn letters and, I have no idea where this is coming from but several said it, flip pancakes.

Now Miss Lex...

Little, just 4 year old Harmon, said his favorite thing is when Miss Lex “helps us do our own experiments”. He loves it so much apparently that if he could buy anything in the world for Miss Lex he would buy her a big box of chocolates, because “she loves chocolate”. Griffen says forget the chocolates, he is sure the key to Miss Lex’s heart would be with the gift of a cat, because Miss Lex apparently LOVES cats. She, he declares with total assurance, has 14 of them and could *certainly* use one more.

Now, Arslan, he apparently loves Miss Lex’s cool glasses, oh, and how she helps him with his letters too.

They all concur that the things that make Lex most happy is when 1) she is doing calendar and 2) when no one has to go to Time Out.

When asked if she could take Miss Lex anywhere in the world on a fancy trip, Meredith squealed “The Beach!!!”

These kids know and love Miss Lex. They love how she works with them and teaches them things, they know the things she loves and that make her happy, they want to take her to a place where it is warm and sunny and fun.

Now we delve into real chatterbox territory....

Miss Amy:

4 year olds Sophie, Kelly, Char-Char and Charlotte Rose have a lot to say about Miss Amy. They all love when she does their morning work with them as they get special time with her. Kelly states, “...sometimes, we all sit together but in morning work we just sit with Amy and she tells us what to do.”

Char-Char says, “She helps me and she teaches me.”

Sophie... “She helps us with our names when we do them wrong.”

Charlotte says Miss Amy is a good teacher because she learned from being a “such a good Mom for Hailey and Brooke”

Apparently Miss Amy is MOST happy when the kids get to do “fun stuff”. Fun stuff, I ask? “Yep.” Says Kelly, “Like when my tooth fell out.”

4 year olds Ben, Calvin and Dylan also had much to add...

Oh, by the way, Dylan would like to send his regrets on behalf of his parents. According to Dylan, they apparently will not be able to attend tonight's festivities because Dylan "needs to cook breakfast for my Dad and my Mom needs to help me." Noted.

According to Calvin, Miss Amy is MOST happy when "we do really nice coloring, without scribbling and staying in the lines."

Char-Char says Miss Amy is most happy when, "...all the kids are being nice and not being mean ever and not hitting kids and playing nice."

When it comes to sending Miss Amy on some amazing adventure, Kelly having just returned from Miami is sure that Amy would love to take a return trip there with her and bonus! "...They would get to take an airplane ride together."

Dylan would love to accompany Miss Amy to a factory and get this; Calvin would like to take Miss Amy to "the deep end of the ocean". Now, for anyone who may think this may somehow imply that Calvin would like to drown Miss Amy, never fear. He apparently had some super cool dream that he, his Dad, Siobhan and Graham explored the deep end of the ocean and he would like to go back there with Miss Amy.

My Char-Char, who is apparently obsessed with Africa, would love to travel there with Miss Amy because "'it is so warm, and you can see all kinds of animals there".

And Ben, well Ben wanted to take Miss Amy to the dentist. Slightly perplexed, I dug deeper to find out why. Apparently, Miss Amy would, along with his Mommy, help him feel less scared.

And we can all guess where Charlotte Rose would like to take Miss Amy... Disney World, because, "That is where Cinderella lives!"

Miss Tina

Now onto the slightly more laid back 5 year olds...

Alexander's favorite thing to do with Miss Tina is group time. Cate loves when Miss. Tina "...gives us 2 or 1 stickers after morning work and draws pictures with me." Libby loves Miss Tina because "she is really nice and she helps me learn my letters and gets me Band-Aids when I get hurt."

Addie says simply, "I love that she is my teacher. She cares about us and loves us."

Charles says he loves Miss Tina because she "helps me do my work and calms him 'up'."

Nathan thinks Miss Tina is the best because “Miss Tina knows a lot of stuff, like how to make kids learn stuff.”

In fact, according to Nathan, what makes Miss Tina most happy in the world is “when we know a lot of stuff and when we ‘co-whopewate’. Because not many kids ‘co-whopewate.’

Emilia says what makes Miss Tina most happy is, “When we listen.”

Nathan would like to buy Miss. Tina some beautiful flowers as thanks for all she does, whereas Addie thinks that Miss Tina deserves a “beautiful, shiny crystal.”

All 7 kids in Tina’s group, when interviewed separately, wanted to take her to Florida. *Every* child! And for the life of me, I would not figure out why. Finally, when I interviewed Libby and she too, said Florida. I said, “What is with it with you kids all wanting to take Miss Tina to Florida and Libby said, “...because Miss Tina’s Grammy lives there and she loves her Grammy so much.” (Jackson and Elle’s Grammy, Tina’s Mom)

And finally, as everyone knows, every performance review, no matter how glowing, must come with some development areas. So here goes...Cate shared that at nap time “Amy and Tina have to tell me like 70 or 80 times to just, well, you know, go to sleep. But I don’t like to sleep.”

And so I communicate to you both on Cate’s behalf that she would prefer to just play outside while all the other kids nap and if you could help her out with that, that would be aces all around.

Each one of you is a brilliant, amazing, loving, beautiful woman in your own right and a wonderful role model for my daughter. You keep our children happy and safe and have given our kids the greatest gift of all, a true love of learning along with the security that comes with the warm, loving family environment of NG.

THANK YOU!