

A gift from one avid reader to another avid reader...



Sayble, your dreams will come true!

Trying to stick to my one New Year's resolution of getting better organized, I was cleaning off my desk and I came across this letter and a packet of information. I thought I should share it with you because I can't begin to tell this story any better than it was told to me.

The letter read...

My name is Melissa Mitchell and I am writing in regards to a story that I am hoping that you will publish on the behalf of my 10 year old daughter Sayble. The story is not a story of sadness or tragedy, but a story of dreams and hope for the future. My daughter asked me if we could write a letter to the newspapers about her. And so this is where I decided to start, with the Call and Post.

My daughter has been a student in the Warrenville district at Westwood Elementary since Kindergarten and she also attended pre-school at Louis Stokes Head Start, which both school districts have had negative reviews and are considered to be in academic emergency when it comes to the scores of the achievement test, etc. Well, I can personally say that the teachers from both of those schools have given there all throughout my daughter's attendance at both of the schools. And, had it not been for the truly being educators amongst all the scrutiny placed upon the districts, my daughter would not be as bright as she is today.

Last year, my daughter was accepted too Hathaway Brown and the previous year, she was accepted to Laurel. Both of which are very prestigious schools for girls and they have high expectations for young girls to achieve

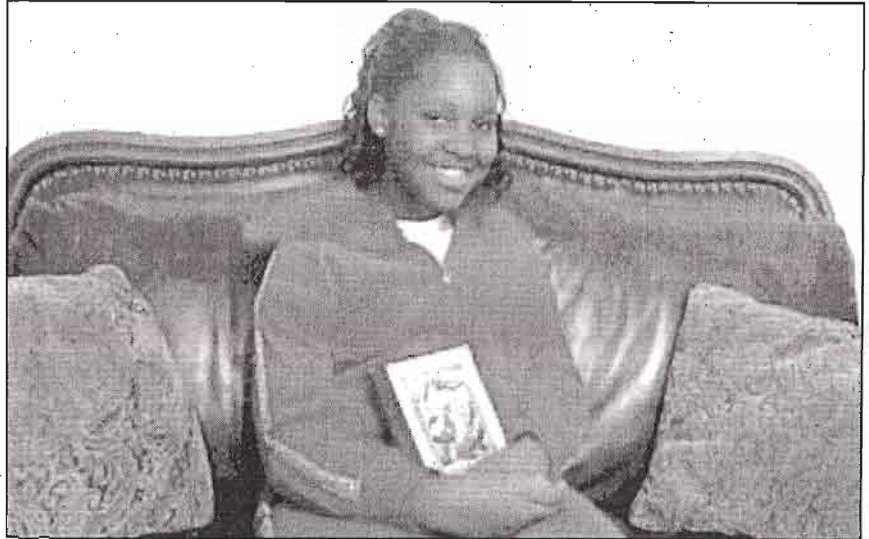
and become successful. Both of the schools require an entrance examination, which Sayble took and highly passed on both occasions. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend because financial assistance ran out before they were able to get to her name.

Both times her heart was crushed and so were her dreams.

Mentioning her dream, I want to tell you that my daughter has always said since the age of three that she wants to be a doctor (pediatrician) and she even has a name for her practice already picked out (Family First). What amazes me is that most kids at the age of three say they want to be a singer, ballerina, and such but her goal has remained the same.

Just about everyday, Sayble asks me what can we do to raise the money to get her in and it breaks my heart because I don't have the answer for her. I just recently graduated myself with a two-year degree and I am planning on furthering my education because I want her to know that she should never give up on her dreams and that some how things will work out. I want to tell you a little more about her and you will see through the documents that are attached that this is a child that deserves an excellent education.

Sayble is an avid reader. You can always find her face buried in books of all magnitude. If she is not reading to herself, she is reading to one of her foster brothers or sister. She says to me, that she is teaching them to read because she read that "if you read to small children, it helps them to become smart." As you can see, she has basically been on the Honor Roll every grading period since the Kindergarten.



Sayble Bradley, an avid reader and fifth grader, dreams of attending Hathaway Brown School in Shaker then going on to become a pediatrician. (Photos courtesy of Melissa Mitchell)

She loves math, (something I totally hate). She likes being in plays, listening to music (various), and learning to play piano. She's not that great of a singer (yet). However, recently she had enough confidence to audition for the Singing Angels and to her surprise, she was accepted. It is our hope that someone (doctor) will read her story and sponsor her education through donations and even mentorship. Sayble has saved her birthday, Christmas, and allowance for 2 years, which isn't a lot, to go towards her education. She calls them her dreams dollars.

There is so much more I can tell you about her plans which include her wanting to help another child who happens to be a foster child [and] has similar goals as her to go to Hathaway Brown...[and] get in too.

Please think about this and consider helping Sayble to get the education she deserves that can allow her to achieve down the line. We all know that there are many opportunities for the children who have academic challenges but what about the gifted ones? -Melissa Mitchell

Here's an excerpt from the letter she received from Hathaway Brown:

"On behalf of the Middle School Admission Committee, I

am delighted to inform you that Sayble has been accepted to Hathaway Brown's Class of 2015! In reviewing her application, we are impressed by the quality and variety of her academic and extracurricular achievements, and we sincerely hope that she will be able to accept our offer to join the HB community this fall. Sayble would be a wonderful addition to our rising fifth grade class."

-Lucy N. Lytle, 82, Director of Middle School Admissions, Hathaway Brown School

After speaking to Mitchell, I learned that Sayble is currently attending New Covenant Christian Academy and still maintaining straight A's. Also, she was just notified that Sayble will receive some scholarship monies to attend Hathaway Brown. However, even with the help, a strong financial demand rests on the family's shoulders.

Additionally, Mitchell is a foster mother but Sayble is her biological child.

"She's really bright and I want her to have a bright future," said Mitchell.

If anyone is interested in assisting Sayble, please contact The Inkwell.