

**Turner Intergenerational Essay Contest
Ages 5-8 – 1st Place
Liliah Demsky submitted by Suzanna Eller**

Were you kind today? That's one of the frequent questions we ask our daughter now as she gets closer to the tween years, when smiles and hugs can so often get replaced by smirks and side eye.

She is so kind. She is so thoughtful and she is friends with humans of all ages. She learned this through her days and years at the ILC at PMSV (The Mount). She started at the ILC at 4 months old. We were one of the lucky families who had babies starting there in the fall of 2011. When she graduated from the ILC I cried happy tears and knew she was ready for what challenges she faced because she has such amazing teachers, friends and grandmas and grandpas at the Mount.

Our family, like many in Seattle is a family of transplants. We didn't grow up in Seattle, we chose to be here. We love our chosen home but this means we miss out on having family and especially grandparents around. The idea of having hundreds of grandmas and grandpas right there for our daughter as she was establishing herself in the world was one of the main reasons we chose the ILC for our early educational needs.

From day one residents of the Mount were in our daughter's life. She would visit the neighborhoods in the wagon, get held, rocked and read to by residents who visited the baby room and eventually would go on walks around the community with us.

Early on she met a very special resident Evelyn. Evelyn was 102 years old and Lilah was 2 when they became great friends. Lilah would ask to go see Evelyn and we would go visit weekly. Evelyn would invite Lilah into her apartment, share her jellybeans and a story and they would bird watch and play with Evelyn's tweeting bird stuffed animals.

Evelyn and Lilah were 100 years apart and it didn't matter. They loved each other. Lilah visited Evelyn even after she left the ILC for kindergarten. She would come show Evelyn her ballet costume on recital day, or bring Evelyn cookies at Christmas time. Their friendship lasted to the very end. At 106 Evelyn passed away and Lilah at 6 years old felt her first real loss. Lilah still remembers shaking Evelyn's snow globe with her and imagining the sparkles falling on the scene. Lilah still spends most weekends with friends she made during her years at the ILC but it's the gift of having had a local grandma, who loved our daughter that touched us the most.

We are so thankful that such a special community exists here in our own back yard. The intergenerational learning center made a huge impact on our daughter and our family and the gift of kindness that she learned in the halls of the Mount continues to be a focus in our lives today and every day.

Turner Intergenerational Essay Contest
Ages 5-8 – 2nd Place
Eliza DeLapp

ILC is a very good preschool. I loved it. My little brother Owen is in ILC and when he talks about it I remember all the good stuff we did together. I remember that we helped the residents. I held hands with the residents and I made lunch for them. I sang songs for them. One resident sang “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” to me.

We went outside. I met my best friend Mayzie there and we are still friends! I have been friends with Mayzie since I was 8 months old. We are in Scouts together and we sang Christmas carols at ILC. We took naps in the Bug Room and I was not a fan of that. We went on field trips to the wading pool and the fire station and it was fun!

On Halloween we had a parade. I dressed up like a butterfly. The residents were all dressed up. One resident wore a witch costume and others wore superhero costumes. I love the residents. But one I adore. I forgot his name and I think it was Nick. He was really nice. My favorite resident wore a bat costume. His arms were wings and he painted his face. I saw him almost every visit. He would say, “Hi, Eliza. It’s nice to see you again.” I miss him. The residents were nice to me and my classmates.

An old friend of my Grandpa is in a wheelchair. I like to show her things and she is always proud of me. I feel comfortable around her. She reminds me of the residents.

On Valentine's Day we brought candy and we brought cards. On Thanksgiving we get a day off. I loved their encouragement and love. We had nap time and did I mention that I don't like it. I will remember ILC until I am 24 and then I will be busy being a grown up.



Turner Intergenerational Essay Contest
Ages 5-8 – 3rd Place
Leo Comazzetto

I wish I could be with you now but can't because I am in second grade now and it is fun and I am learning new things. Now let's get back on the track, what I am writing about today is a specific memory of my ILC experience. What stands out the most is when I read a book to the residents when I got time off from nap time. My favorite book was and still is Fox in Socks it made me feel happy inside.

Another memory that I have is when we would have dance parties with the residents. I do not know how it made the residents feel when we had dance parties but I know it made me feel happy. After we had the party and went back classrooms I was sad because I did not want to stop partying!