



Dear GREAT Theatre Patron,

Did you know that National Education Association research shows 160,000 students miss school everyday because they fear being attacked or intimidated by other kids?

Did you know, that 28% of our area's largest school district students are from ethnic minorities?

Did you know that 24% of 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported race-related bullying in a Kansas State University study?

Now, imagine a classroom of students eager to come to school and excited for each day's lesson.

Imagine students as young as 4<sup>th</sup> grade proudly discussing their heritage and celebrating other students' family histories.

Imagine a theatre arts program that reduces behavior issues in participating students and builds their self-confidence.

You don't have to imagine it because GREAT Theatre has created it. It is their 4<sup>th</sup> grade Immigration Residency program and it ties social studies curriculum to theatre arts lessons. Participating students increase their knowledge of live theatre, have a positive experience presenting a play, while growing their understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity.

I was fortunate to have this three-week program in my classroom. My students demonstrated the profound benefits of participation. There were no clashing cultures, just discovering of common ground and shared goals. I see how each student now has a new appreciation for the similarities we share versus the differences we have.

In fact, trips to the principal's office were reduced to near zero. I can think of no other program that has had such a great impact on my students.

GREAT Theatre changes lives. I have seen it in my own classroom. They are shaping this community and need your support. Please make a gift today.

Timothy Holbrook  
Grade 4 Teacher  
Madison Elementary School  
St. Cloud, MN