

**In honor of King's celebration of the National Blue Ribbon
Award, November, 2014**

Cover art by Eliot Ziolek, 5th grader

All essays written by King School 5th graders

**Students selected to read their essays at the ceremony:
Jessica Tai, Aarnav Unadkat, and Camille Hu.**

Blue Ribbon Essay

By: Jessica Tai

In my eyes, King School has always been an amazing school. All of the teachers have always been supportive and inspiring. Student teachers learn here every year, along with all of the kids. I love the classes, the halls, Mrs. Cooper, and all of the specials classes and teachers, including Ms. Katz and Ms. Koenig, the fifth grade instrumental teachers. And I think that all of this contributes to King becoming a Blue Ribbon School this year.

Here at King, students put in pride and effort into their work, and strive for everything that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for. Every day practically revolves around the 18 life skills. I don't know if we realize it, but these are so vital for everything that we do. I know Mrs. Gracey does, though. In third grade she had us reflect on them every Friday. These life skills include caring, common sense, cooperation, courage, curiosity, effort, flexibility, friendship, initiative, integrity, organization, patience, perseverance, pride, problem solving, resourcefulness, responsibility, and sense of humor.

King has a wonderful neighborhood with wonderful, supportive parents, grandparents, and guardians. We are a diverse learning community with creative and brilliant minds. King has our wonderful PTO, which helps organize family activities and events, such as the Ice Cream Social, the Silent Auction, the Harvest Moon Festival, and International Night. King also has after school activities, such as Science Olympiad, Academic Games, Girl Scouts, King Care, Rec & Ed sports, and art and Spanish classes. Here at King we have a compost team to compost in the lunchroom, a student council to organize events such as crazy hair day and pajama day, and a safety patrol to keep students safe.

At King school, we have a beautiful Learning Garden, founded by Ms. Shah, my amazing teacher. Every year, classes get to go outside and work in the garden, planting, weeding, and watering the garden. We grow fruits and vegetables from watermelons and corn, to peppers and tomatoes, for everyone to try. We also go on class field trips. I remember in second grade we went to the Gravel Pit, and in fourth grade we went to Waterloo. This year I am really excited to go to Space Camp with the whole fifth grade for a week!

All of this contributes to King becoming a Blue Ribbon School, and all of this makes King a phenomenal place to be. And when I look back, I feel that this school has always been this amazing, my second home, my safe place. All these years I've been learning with a smile on my face. All these years of new experiences. And now I'm in fifth grade, and soon I'll be leaving for middle school. I guess I've never thought about it before; it's

always been so far away. But now that it's so close, I'm really going to miss King School. Even after I leave, though, I will continue to keep the dream alive every day.

Blue Ribbon Essay by Aarnav Unadkat

Hi my name is Aarnav , and I think that these past years at King have been fun. I made good friends, my teachers were nice, and I got to have fun. The reason that I had fun is because the teachers made it fun. So I want to thank all the teachers.

I also want to thank Mrs Cooper. She is always so nice and positive.

I think the reason we won the blue ribbon award is because we are unique in many ways. We have after school events like international night, ice cream social, harvest moon festival, and more. These events make people have fun and get in a good mood.

We also have after-school activities like science olympiad, math olympiad, robotics, and a lot of other stuff. Also, of course, space camp. We are one of the only schools that goes to space camp and have math olympiad. The main reason we can do all of this is because of the parents.

The parents are so involved with school that they make these after school activities possible. So I want to thank them.

King has had a big impact on my life. In other schools, I might not have got the opportunity to dance in front of an audience. I might've not been able to do math olympiad. And I might not have had so much fun.

With so much fun and after school activities/events it proves that King Is not just a school, it's a community.

Living The Dream By Camille Hu

When I was little I remember dreaming of my first day of school. Not preschool, real school with writing math and the Fifth graders, finally it happened.

On my first day of kindergarten it looked like King was already a blue ribbon school yet I also noticed that most of the kids were a little taller than I was, not that it mattered but

it did at that age. And at first I thought it was bad to be different but as I went into first grade I really didn't care how tall or short I was.

When I entered second grade some of my friends were on the shorter side too, but then we all realized that the teachers and staff didn't care about how tall or short we were and neither should we. At King all the staff help us out, you can be who you want to be. It doesn't matter whether you're short or tall or from a different culture.

I've been at King for six years and I've loved all of them from kindergarten to fifth grade. And I have always dreamed of becoming a fifth grader and here I am now, soon I'll be leaving for middle school. Now to me King could be known as any other regular elementary school, but it could also be known as a second home.

Yet at King it's not only the great staff, the caring teachers and the hardworking students. It's also the eighteen life skills. They help us build a safe, fun learning community, there practically the building blocks of King School. And those are some of the things that make King so great. Were all one big happy family, and even though King may not be perfect, no family is. So as I leave for middle school I would like to thank every single teacher I have had at King. But one thing I will remain sure of is I will be living the King dream every single day!

WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT KING SCHOOL?

By Maggie Wolf

I love being a student at King Elementary. There are lots of things that make King a fun place to learn. Here are some of them. The staff and parents are amazing. There are a lot of parents who volunteer for many activities, for example, coaching Science Olympiad, helping out in the classroom, chaperoning field trips and working at events like the Book Fair and the Silent Auction.

I have really enjoyed all the teachers I have had, and I have also made connections with other teachers. A lot of the teachers at King are involved with other activities like student council and the student safety program. All my teachers have been thoughtful about my learning and they have made school fun!

Another think I think makes King School a great school are the activities that you can choose to do outside of the classroom. One of these activities is Science Olympiad. I have had fun learning about extinct and endangered animals, birds, rocks and minerals and architecture. A lot of my coaches put in extra time outside of our regular meetings to make sure that I understood and enjoyed what we were learning.

My fifth grade teacher this year created the King Learning Garden. A few days every year the whole school gets to work in the garden one class at a time. I really enjoy doing things in the garden. I get to learn, but in a different way and about different things. It is always fun to learn outside.

A final thing I love about King School is my friends. I have been at King since Kindergarten, and I met my best friends in my Kindergarten class. One of my favorite things is to get to spend time with them. Most of the people I know at King have made great friends here. My friends make my school experience fun and special. I feel lucky to go to King School.

Dream Keepers By Eva Reed

At King everyone contributes to the main goal to learn. We all played a part in getting this blue ribbon award. Only everyone working hard and doing their best can this school a magnificent award like this one.

In kindergarten you're just learning how to sit still you don't really know what school is about but they are in in a way the most important part of our school. They learn, they listen and if they didn't do that no one would try.

In first grade you've learned a lot of stuff and you're starting to branch out. What I remember about first grade is the field trip to the zoo and writing a newspaper. I think that the reason I remember these things is because it gave me lots of hands on experience. I really loved seeing the animals and really seeing what it's like to be an author.

In second grade we learned about rock and minerals in science and we went to the gravel pit. We learned about different kinds of rocks. In second grade I really realized it's okay to be different. Everyone's good at different things, everyone likes different things, it's good to be different.

In third grade we learned about light. The light we need to see. This had a very different effect on me. We need our difference to see.

In fourth grade I really started to appreciate what a wonderful school King is.

Now I'm in fifth grade and we're going to space camp soon. I really like the system everyone goes or no on goes. I will never forget all of the great times I've had I am going to leave for middle school. I will never forget all of great teachers I've had all of the great advise they've given me. Now I can say I am a dream keeper. 😊

Blue Ribbon Essay

By: Manali Mody

I think this is a blue ribbon school because we are a great team. We try our best to stay focused and get our work done. We are an organized school and that's why get to have all the fun stuff like the Ice Cream Social and International Night.

My experience at King was great since the teachers treat you well and THAT makes you feel good. I think that is a great quality to have if your school is a blue ribbon school, which it is. I know some people don't like math but, to make it more fun, the teacher's do things like count raisins and then eat them, just for estimating the amount of raisins! It's a pretty good strategy, if you ask me.

When I think about my first day at King, the first day I sat at a table and learned with my friends in Kindergarten, all I think about is how happy I was. I know for a fact that, this school, is and always will be a great school.

The Exceptional School

By: Leela A. Raghavendran

It was the day my class was walking down to our special, music. We entered the room and took a seat. "Okay, Mrs. Hagan's class today we will be learning the Pledge Of Allegiance, but singing it not saying it", Mrs. Vanek (our music teacher) said. We all were thinking, what, why? Then Mrs. Vanek said, "it was because the mayor of Ann Arbor was coming and they wanted us to sing something about America so I chose the Pledge Of Allegiance"! Everyone in my class were all puzzled, well why is mayor coming? " Our school won a National Blue Ribbon Award, so Ms. Cooper is having a big assembly for that", Mrs. Vanek said. My whole class was excited!

"Click, clack, squeak" that was the sound of my classmates shoes squeaking down the hallway back to our classroom. " Pss, mayor Ann Arbor, Blue, Ann Arbor", that was my class talking while walking back to our classroom, and talking about the fun things that are going to happen soon. That was the day we had learned about our school winning the National Blue Ribbon Award! We were all excited!

Now as we all know I am writing this essay for the Blue Ribbon we all proudly earned. So now I'm going to describe a little about what you have to do to earn the blue ribbon and how we courageously got it! Plus some other schools in the USA that got a Blue Ribbon award as well. Here are some other places that got awarded the Blue Ribbon Award, Alaska, California, Arkansas, and Delaware, and lots more places!

This year Arne Duncan picked out 340 schools to get the National Blue Ribbon Award and we were one of those 340 schools that got picked. Just like the waiting list in college, we were one of those many schools or kids that got chosen. And we are very lucky that happened. Now the way they judge which school gets a Blue Ribbon they have to look at our overall academic excellence and progress in our closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. All the schools that got chosen can demonstrate that all students can achieve to high levels! The department of education will honor 290 public schools and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony in November that we all hope our principal Mary Cooper will hopefully attend. In the Blue Ribbons 32-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program has gifted this fancy award to just under 7,900 schools in America!

Did you know that the National Blue Ribbon Schools Award started in 1982?

Why do I think that King School is exceptional? I think King School is exceptional because of the diversity in the school. When we relocated from Buffalo, New York, My mother called the school to see whether the children came from diverse backgrounds. Mr. Karr the principle answered her by saying "we have children from 19 different countries that each speak different languages". My mother was very happy with that response because her kids would have friends with different backgrounds. Each year that I have been going to King I have learned new facts about every religion from my friends, teachers and student interns.

Even when I walk into our Café at King I learn new facts about food. You can smell the different smells of food from different cultures, Indian, American, Korean, Chinese, etc. So now I will give you some examples of my years at King.

In kindergarten I had met a friend named Vivian and she helped me expand my knowledge on English much more since she could speak very good English. I would always start improving on my English everyday I came home from school, and at school! In the first grade I had met a friend named Manali. She had a very similar cultural background as I and when any Indian culture festivals were coming up we would always start talking about it in class with each other. So that was the good thing about meeting another Indian friend. In the second grade I had a teacher named Reema Jarjoura. She was one of the best teachers I had had in King. In the second grade she taught me Arabic culture. In the third grade, I had met 2 friends named Justina and Kamie. Justina had made me learn a lot

about German culture and how girls in Germany were treated and what kind of food she ate there. Kamie had explained a lot of information about China and their culture. Finally in fourth grade I had met probably the best friend of my life in elementary school, her name was Jisun she gave me so much information about Korea. How her family had moved from there to here. So by the time I was through to fourth grade I had learned about American culture, a little more about Indian culture, Arabic culture, German and Chinese culture, and last but definitely not the least Korean culture. Now in fifth grade I am getting myself to learn even more facts about Chinese culture since we are taking Chinese class! So in my eyes the King school is a firework that is glowing everyday with colors one color inside the other!

Blue Ribbon Essay **By Lana Yang-Maccini**

I have been going to King for five fun-filled years and I am starting my sixth. I am very proud that King has become a Blue Ribbon school. I think one of the reasons we were chosen is our great teachers, each one is unique, with colorful classrooms, posters and work by students outside. They are positive and always there to help kids when they need it. Fun field trips are planned by teachers too. Another reason is our great principal, Mrs. Cooper always stands near the doors greeting kids by name every day and visits our classroom often. She is very cheerful and she makes us all laugh all the time. That releases "endorphin". Endorphin is a word Mrs. Cooper taught us! Mrs. Cooper helps our school be the best we can be.

Our school is also very safe. Lunch supervisors are outside at recess to keep us safe. King also has a safety patrol. Safeties make sure kids make kids cross the street safely, open doors in the morning, and gets kids to busses or KingCare. Mr. Clarkson runs the safety patrol. He assigns posts and gives out safety belts each year. Without Mr. Clarkson the safety patrol would never be very organized.

Each teacher I have had has been fun and different. I have had many fun and exciting experiences. In kindergarten I had Mrs. Schaffer who is not here anymore, who was very kind. In first grade Ms. Teshima. She did a program called "smilies". Every time you behaved well, followed directions well, or were quiet while she was talking she gave you a smile. When you earned a certain number she announced it to the whole class! For second grade, I had Mr. Clarkson. He is really funny and never runs out of jokes. In third grade Mrs. Gracey was my teacher. She did many fun writing assignments and I liked them all. For fourth grade I had Mr. Petty, who has gone to a different school. He was funny and that year was very exciting. This year, fifth grade, I have Ms. Hagen. She is fun and

flexible all the time. I have like all my teachers here. Thank you teachers! King school is a great school. Very few schools are picked for this award, but we were. I am very proud to be going here. My school, King School, is a Blue Ribbon School.

Blue Ribbon Essay by Sarah Lee

Hello. My name is Sarah Lee. I m a fifth grader and my teacher is Mrs. Gracey. I've been at King elementary since 1st grade. I'm really proud that King was awarded to be a Blue Ribbon school. I think king was awarded a Blue Ribbon for a few reasons. First of all, I think we have some of the best teachers in the world. They never stop encouraging us. I learn not only math and science, but also life skills.

Second, King school students are awesome! My friends are always working hard. If you truly want to know King students, I would invite you to our international night. International Night has been one of my favorite events of the year. It is a really unique opportunity to remind us of our diverse background. In fact, each of us are so different in many ways, but we are so similar at the same time. I learned that it not our appearances that matter, but it is the values we seek together that holds us strong, just like our beautiful country, the United States of America.

King has painted the doors a dark blue for the celebration. I guess you could say our school is "blue-tiful". This is my last year at King and I am sad and happy. I am happy that I am part of this great recognition by our government and sad that soon I won't be a student here anymore. Sometimes I wish this was my first year, but those desks and chairs would be too small for me. I will cherish my experience here for the rest of my life. Thank you.

Go Blue, King School! By Justina Bitzer

When King school was awarded the blue ribbon award, I had no idea what a blue ribbon award was. When I looked it up, I just realized how important this award is. I learned that in 2014, 340 schools in this country have been awarded a blue ribbon, and there are only 7 blue ribbon elementary schools and one middle school in Michigan. But there are 900 public schools in Michigan! This is an extraordinary achievement for King school! In addition, this is the first time ever that an Ann Arbor public school has been awarded a blue ribbon.

But what is a blue ribbon award? The Blue Ribbon School award asserts overall academic excellence and the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating

safe and welcoming schools. King School definitely fits these categories. Let me tell you why:

I think King school is excellent in academics because of all the different types of learning opportunities, such as after school activities like math olympiad, academic games, and science olympiad. Our school also provides visual and hands-on learning experiences like field trips. In fact, we may be the only school in Michigan where the whole fifth grade goes to space camp. Also, we recently created an amazing learning garden where we grow vegetables like tomatoes and watermelon. In the spring, kids get to plant various plants. This experience not only encourages the student to learn, it makes the student want to learn. Another reason why King school has high academic excellence is because not only students but also teachers learn something new everyday.

Furthermore our school has great academic excellence because of the teachers. This school is blessed with wonderful and truly amazing teachers. Our teachers weave learning and fun together so tightly, that you can't see the difference. They make sure everyone in that classroom is having fun while learning. Every child here has to climb the ladder of education, and here at King school, teachers give a prodigious head start to your academic life. Every parent wants their children to go to a school where you actually participate and learn, and King school covers that and more. To prove it, look at our scores! I believe that King school has great overall academic scores is because kids get free time and have fun while learning during class. Therefore we are excited to go to school every day, and want to learn new things. no kids dread going to school and learning is fun.

Here at king school, we not only teach academics, we also learn the life skills that teach us how to be a good citizen in the future. We also have what we call "Special classes" including; Vocal music, Physical education, Art, Media center, and fifth grade instrumental.

At King school, one amazing activity our teachers and principals put together is language arts. I find this activity truly wonderful. You get to explore different cultures and languages. This learning activity shows your child the normal day of a citizen in another country. In my opinion, I find this very fascinating, and makes me want to learn more. King school encourages students to study or research the things that they are interested in. This is just another amazing school activity that lets the kids decide what they are interested in and also lets the kids learn a wide variety of things. In this school, you will not go a day without having fun and learning something new. I love the happy and enjoyable environment of this school, and it is really disappointing that this is my last year at this amazing school. My classmates and I have experienced a lot and learned many nr things here. I have been on many journeys in this school, and will definitely experience more in this last year here at King School. Kids and teachers here

work together every day, and everyone here gives a lot of effort. The kinds in King school won't settle for anything below their best. The finished combination is a beautiful, magnificent picture that was painted by effort, and picture like that earns us a blue ribbon.

Blue Ribbon Essay **By Kamie Mueller**

I am not surprised that King won a Blue Ribbon. King has so many amazing hard working teachers and principals. They all care for us, take the time to have a plan for each day and make sure when we learn something and we really understand it. King teachers play a big role in our Blue Ribbon. When I came to King elementary our principal was Mr. Karr. He was really an outstanding principal. He wanted us to try our best and really emphasized reading and writing. But he not only cared about our education he taught us in a fun and enjoyable way. For example he went to school once wearing a rainbow clown wig. He also really loves children and use to play with us in the playground. When he left Mrs. Morhous and Mrs. Cooper came and are both very nice principals. Mrs. Cooper is an amazing principal, she is very kind and greets us with a big smile. All of our past and present teachers and principals all encouraged us to do our best. They all care about us and everyday try to make this school an even better place than it was the day before.

Another thing that makes King extraordinary is all of our parent volunteers. For example, at one point we didn't have a crossing guard and parents volunteered to do the job just to make sure we are all safe. There are also a lot of parent volunteers for events such as the silent auction, the ice cream social and International Night. One thing that has a lot of parent volunteers and makes King special is our Learning Garden. I like the Garden because we grow a lot of nice vegetables and it makes us feel good.

One other thing that makes King a good school is their International Night. I danced in an Arabic dance, hula dance and a Chinese fan dance. International night includes many other people such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic, Indian, American, Spanish, German, Israelis and Irish. I like it because King School includes many different cultures. I also like it because sometimes you get to learn a different language through the song or dance.

King School is a magnificent school where every child is included and respected. That is why I think King won a Blue Ribbon. King School really is a "King School"!

Thank you

Blue Ribbon Essay

By Nico Pontius

My name is Nico Pontius and it all my years that Martin Luther King Jr. elementary school the greatest thing to me are my teachers. They taught me all about the school stuff. My first teacher was Mrs. Sanders for kindergarten. She was really nice and for the book of the year I was last. My first grade teacher was Mrs. Schroeder. She was very kind and showed us the composting worms video with Ms Shah. My second grade teacher was M.s Jarjoura. She taught us a dance for international night which I still remember. My third grade teacher was Mrs. Gracey I still say hi to her every day. My fourth grade teacher I had Ms. Knorr. We had a taco party! It was awesome! Ms. Shah is my fifth grade teacher and is the only teacher that I have had that is a Michigan State fan. Those are all my teachers from kindergarten through fifth grade and I have learned a lot.

Why is King a Blue Ribbon School?

By Eva Erhardt

One reason King is a blue ribbon school is because all the different activities we enjoy! Here are some of the things that making special: the hallway names, our lifelong guidelines, international night, K-5 run, jump rope for heart, student council, silent auction, book fair, ice cream social, harvest moon festival, and lunch bunch.

King school is a great school for me the teachers, principal, secretary, nurse and the rest of the staff are great people. The education is good and the school is a fun place to be. We learned so much and become smarter and stronger in our elementary school lives.

Kindergarten

I remember the first day I came to King school and walked into the room with my new teacher is Miss Hattie and Mrs. Schaeffer. When I walked in I knew this was the place for me. The principal Mr. car was fun and outgoing person; the kids were ready to take on this new adventure with me, and the staff looked like nice people. The best memory I have is the sticker scrapbook. The point of the scrapbook was that every time you didn't act of kindness or behaved well you would get a sticker in your scrapbook. At the end of the year, Miss Hattie would count your stickers and whoever had the most stickers got to have the first pick on whatever Mrs. Schaeffer put in the toy box. Then second would go and so on this encouraged us to make good choices and perform kind asked to help ourselves and other people.

First grade

First grade was a great year for me. I had a great teacher Mrs. Schroeder and a group of kids I was proud to call my friends. Like many other teachers Mrs. Schroeder had something she like to encourage. One thing she liked to encourage was reading. Every day we would read a book in class that Mrs. Schroeder had picked. Sometime she would let us read parts of the story out loud in front of our classmates. Also every kid could invite someone special to come in one day and read 1-3 books to the whole class. That was always very interesting.

Second grade

This year was awesome for me. My great teacher Mrs. Gatonez was happy to encourage my classmates and me to show who we were. When we came in the first day she let us color and draw by the end of the year we knew most cursive and how to count by 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 6s, 7s, 8s, 9s and 10s. The first week of school all the students took a big paper poster that had eight boxes that had questions in each one asking who I was where I came from and what I liked. We each shared our paper poster with the class when it was our turn to be star of the week.

Third grade

In third grade I was making new friends in learning more about our new principal and secretary Ms. Moorhous and Ms. Robin. I had Ms. Warner to help me learn more. Ms. Warner encouraged three big things. One was science, another was active listening, and the last one was thinking about your future. I remember that Ms. Warner would have a ball and she would play greeting game. We would say good morning to someone and then pass the ball to that person. The goal is to not try to drop the ball and you would have to listen so we could break our record! I also remember that it was then that we started to help in the garden that Ms. Shah had thought to put together. We moved fresh woodchips into the garden and took out the old ones. We also watered the plants. This helped us remember to stay green!

Fourth grade

This was another wonderful year for me I was lucky to have Ms. Knorr. She loved to teach us math, and she was extraordinarily good at it! I know that not many schools have hallways that are named to help you remember to be good to other people and to respect yourself and others. Kings school does! These hallway names come from the special king school life skills. In fourth grade we use the hallway names to create a scavenger hunt that helped the second graders learn the compass rose.

Fifth grade

Fifth grade is off to a terrific start for me I have Ms. Gracey who is a great teacher. I am also glad to have met new friends. I have also been happy to get to know our new principal Mrs. Cooper. This year, we started studying health. We thought about anti-

bullying, and how to express how we feel. We also get to play an instrument that helps us learn to try new things and work hard to accomplish a goal we might have.

Our school name is Martin Luther King Jr. elementary, but we call it King. At King we call ourselves the Dream Keepers. Our motto is "Keeping the dream alive every day." We also call ourselves the dream keepers because of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream speech". We keep Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream alive every day by making sure that every person in our school knows they are special and gets the chance to do all of the awesome things I've described.

King Community **By Katherine Hu**

The moment I walked through the welcoming doors of King School, I knew I had walked into a community where kids would laugh together, learn together, and play together. On that first day of school, the kids did indeed play together, laugh together, and learn together, and that is one of the hard to find qualities that make a Blue Ribbon School. In my first year, I was astounded at how many people this school taught. It takes lots of Effort for the teachers and students to learn and teach in an efficient way because of all those people. This is a great example of many of our 18 lifeskills, the building blocks of King School. Perseverance, Friendship, and Common Sense.

In my second and third years, I was the target of some bullying. My friends were also teased, and I couldn't stand to watch them be teased. Bullying is one of the biggest problems in our world today for kids. Those years, I had some awesome teachers, and at King school, both teachers and students alike, all help the kids who are the targets of bullying. This is also one of the things that I think make King a Blue Ribbon School.

In my fourth and fifth years, I had some awesome teachers. They both helped me through some challenges academically. Every class in this school can work like a well-oiled machine. We may all get a little rusty sometimes, but no one is perfect. Lots of students worry about their grades, and the students who may not get the grades they wanted started to feel bad about themselves. My teachers helped lots of students, including myself, to boost their self-esteem through the roof. This makes all the teachers at King Blue Ribbon Worthy.

This year, my sixth year, my teacher Ms. Shah, has a knack for storytelling and two very green thumbs that she uses to make this a green school. Here at King, we compost. This may just seem like a little thing, but throwing away fruits that can be composted, can release harmful gases into the air that we don't want to breathe. That can be a danger to the wildlife around us as well. Another thing: the King Learning Garden and Outdoor Classroom. As my principal, Mrs. Cooper, once told my class, "*My perfect classroom would*

be just like this one. Just take away the roof, and all the walls, and it's practically perfect." I think that the outdoor classroom allows the students to clear their minds, and to learn outside of the walls. Also, enjoying the sweet, succulent juices that the fruits and vegetables provide, and them being harvested by you, is a great experience for kids of all ages, because everything tastes better when it is made by yourself.

My experiences at King have all been phenomenal, and since this is my last year, I would like to share these reasons of why I think King is a Blue Ribbon Worthy school.

Blue Ribbon Essay By Kilas Gallimore

The start of this exquisite adventure was just about to begin. Our beautiful Kindergarten teacher Ms. Sanders was at her vividly colored desk. I approached and murmured hello from those very words. I stayed positive. And that's the way I liked it, stay positive- that is one of the building blocks to a blue ribbon.

For first grade I had Ms. Teshima. Always fun that year. When I went to sleep last night I had images of the smiley faces on the bulletin board. I would try to smile ear to ear. Literally those face cramps still hot me. After a while I noticed the smiley faces were holding hands. It weren't for this is united. United is another building block for a blue ribbon school.

In second grade I had Mr. Clarkson. I can tell you now a very joyful teacher. This teacher gave me some of my personality, that is humor. After every special he had a joke just waiting for you. One day he got ready to crack eggs on our heads but he tripped with that dozen of eggs and "ding" my breakfast was ready. When I came back the next day I saw some of the older kids at the door before we could go in, in the morning. They are called safeties. Later I figured out they get up at 7 AM for our safety and to open the school doors or help us across the street. Now that I'm one I feel official. Yes I'm the one being entertaining yet focused. "Ya" I'm directing cars to their destinations by dancing. I hope you guys like it! Yet me and the other safeties are lending a hand, being helpful or generous. Generosity is definitely a building block for a blue ribbon school.

In third grade I had Mrs. Warner, who is sweet, quiet, calm - the exact opposite of me. I realized I was being respectful out of school. So to make sure I was worthy of being respectful, I brought my respect into this humble building. I didn't do all of it. You guys did most of it. Still I see a positive amount of respect in the school. It doesn't matter

whom you give it to just as long as you're respectful. You guessed it - another one of the blue ribbon building blocks.

And now the present day, I have Ms Shah for fifth grade. We can see plants up close in the garden like we haven't seen them before and people other ways too. That reminds me, the last building block is unique - be different, be yourself. I can see why Martin Luther King Jr. elementary school was honored to be a national blue ribbon school and these six reasons are partially why. The reason I said partially is because that is approximately 6.260978452 of the steps to a blue ribbon, if you would just look over there at the 18 life skills that is where most of the magic comes from. The rest comes from you the students. Thank you for being my wonderful audience!

Blue Ribbon Essay **By: Maanya Tarnal**

I'd like to talk about why King Elementary School is such a wonderful school. Ever since I have come to King the people have welcomed me like I belonged here. Here at King nobody judges you by what you wear or how you express yourself. We accept you for who you are because we all know that nobody is perfect and that we all make mistakes. That's why we are called the Dream Keepers. We help you keep your dreams and help you believe that you can accomplish them.

My learning here has been wonderful. The school has after-school activities like Academic Games, Math Olympiad, Science Olympiad and many more. These activities help kids who are eager to learn more or just want to do something that has the mix of learning and fun at the same time. So far my personal experience with these after-school activities has been fun and interesting. It has helped me so much with my math and other subjects. The games we play aren't just about the subject we are learning, it's about having fun and learning at the same time. How cool is that, fun and learning at the same time. The after-school activities have helped improve my understandings of different subjects and probably other kids too.

Another thing I like about King are the people here. The principal and teachers here are not only your teachers, but they are also your friends. And the students here are people you would want to know for your whole life. They are always by your side to pick you up when you fall down. They are there to make you happy when you have a bad day. That's why I love about people here because of the way they help you and treat you.

King was given the National Blue Ribbon award because of the academic excellence. King is the first Ann Arbor Public School to be honored with the National Blue Ribbon award. It is one of the eight schools in Michigan to be named a Blue Ribbon School. King's International Night teaches kids about other cultures and allows kids to see things that people do in their cultures. King also has other nights where we celebrate different cultures like Harvest Festival, we celebrate festivals that other people celebrate during that time. King is a school where we celebrate different cultures and we respect them too.

That's why I think King Elementary is a wonderful school. The way people treat you here is amazing. The teachers, principal and the learning are great. And most importantly we are all treated equal. I hope that everyone knows that choosing King as a Blue Ribbon school was an amazing choice. Thank You.
