



Dear Mizzentop Community,

One of our proudest parenting moments was the first Saturday in June, 2018. Our daughter, Kyra, took the podium on stage at the Mizzentop Day School graduation. In keeping with the Mizzentop tradition for all graduates, she delivered her speech to the entire community. She was poised, confident, and impressive.

It was hard to believe this triumphant moment came just three years after we found ourselves at the end of our rope with our public school. In 2015 our children, Kyra and Nolan, did not even want to go to school. Our school administrators weren't treating us as part of the team. They weren't listening when we spoke about things like medical history, homework frustration, and social insecurities.

Coincidentally, around this time we traveled across Connecticut to attend my high school reunion. Imagine my surprise to learn one of my old friends lived just a few short miles from my home in the Village of Pawling! She told me about her children and raved about this wonderful school they had attended. It sounded too good to be true. To think we could get our children the education we wanted without having to move! I left that reunion more hopeful than I had been in years.

The following year our children entered the welcoming doors of Mizzentop -- in sixth and second grade -- and our lives were forever changed. Not only have they received a comprehensive education, they have learned to live by core values that, to us, are even more important. Kyra and Nolan learned to feel safe in school, to love school, to contribute to their community, and to be curious and independent thinkers. They now know that they are valued members of society because they were listened to during these crucial developmental years.

They are well prepared for future success. As parents, we finally felt our voices were heard and valued.

This is why Brian and I never hesitate to show our financial support through Mizzentop's Annual fund. We know tuition only covers a fraction of the cost of a Mizzentop education. In fact, tuition is actually 20% less than the actual cost of educating each child. In addition, the MDS administration is looking to secure Mizzentop's future by investing in marketing to continue enrollment growth, building an endowment, and purchasing the building we live in. Our tax-deductible donations help to close those gaps and make investments to build a stronger Mizzentop for tomorrow.

On the first Saturday in June of this year, our son Nolan will follow in his sister's footsteps and graduate from Mizzentop Day School. It will be another proud moment in our parenting history. We were so fortunate to have found Mizzentop. Please join us in showing our financial support for the 2021-2022 Annual Fund.

Please return the enclosed envelope with your gift, or visit www.mizzentop.org.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Briggs

Brian Briggs, Trustee

Kyra, Class of 2018

Nolan, Class of 2022