

RUSSIA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS TEACHERS

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.

Aristotle



The school years are wonderful. And they wouldn't be so great if it weren't for the people who have walked side by side with us over the years, leading us into the world of knowledge and adulthood.

This my son's story about his elementary school teacher. My son remembers well his first September 1st. First there was a school assembly. Then they gave flowers to their first teacher and told her they wanted to study in her class. She smiled and said that there would be many more interesting subjects and good teachers in life.

They listened to the school rules and the next day their first lessons began. It was an exciting moment when their notebooks and textbooks were neatly laid on the desks. They were waiting for the teacher to come in, said hello and she let them sit down.

My son does not remember the topic of the first lesson. But he distinctly remembers the feeling of a holiday. Tatyana Maratovna taught them the main subjects. Most of all he liked mathematics. And all this is due to the teacher's love for her subject. Even the weakest students, who could ignore homework from other subjects, never did so at Tatyana Maratovna's lessons. They tried to do or at least cheat before class, as they did not want to upset their teacher.

Her stories about new topics were like poems. She always checked if everybody understood the problem, and if not, she repeated it, illustrating the material with numbers and facts familiar from childhood and examples from life. Tatyana Maratovna is always generous with well-deserved praise, and repeated that math was all about attention and accuracy.

She had a well-positioned voice, smooth and quiet speech. She respected every student.

They weren't even afraid of tests. The teacher had time to explain everything and to set them up.

As the class teacher found an individual approach to all parents. Mothers and fathers liked her because she was understanding and responsive, she was attentive to every problem and shared her experiences. We organized many holidays, participated in city and regional events and contests, won prizes.

At graduation they were all sincerely devoted to the first teacher and promised never to upset her.

| New words and combinations | Discuss |
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| school assembly – школьная линейка well-deserved praise – заслуженная похвала individual approach – индивидуальный подход share experiences – делиться опытом familiar - знакомый examples from life – примеры из жизни | 1. Speak about your favourite teacher: his or her appearance, personal qualities... Why do you like her or him? 2. Do you agree with following statements “Repetition — the mother of learning”? Why or why not? |