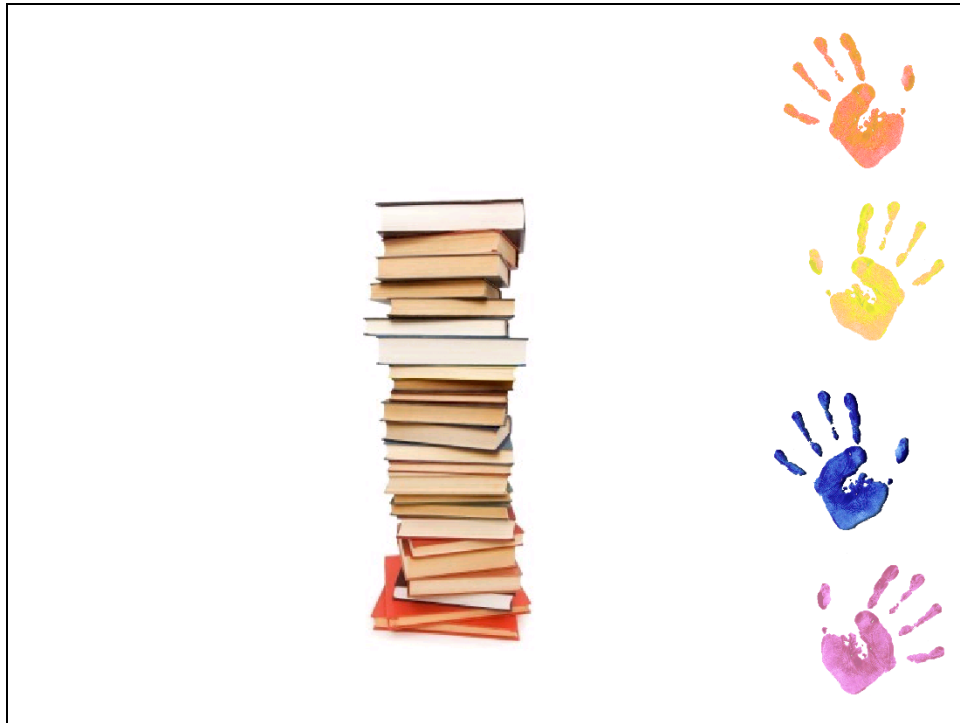




Small schools lend a helping hand





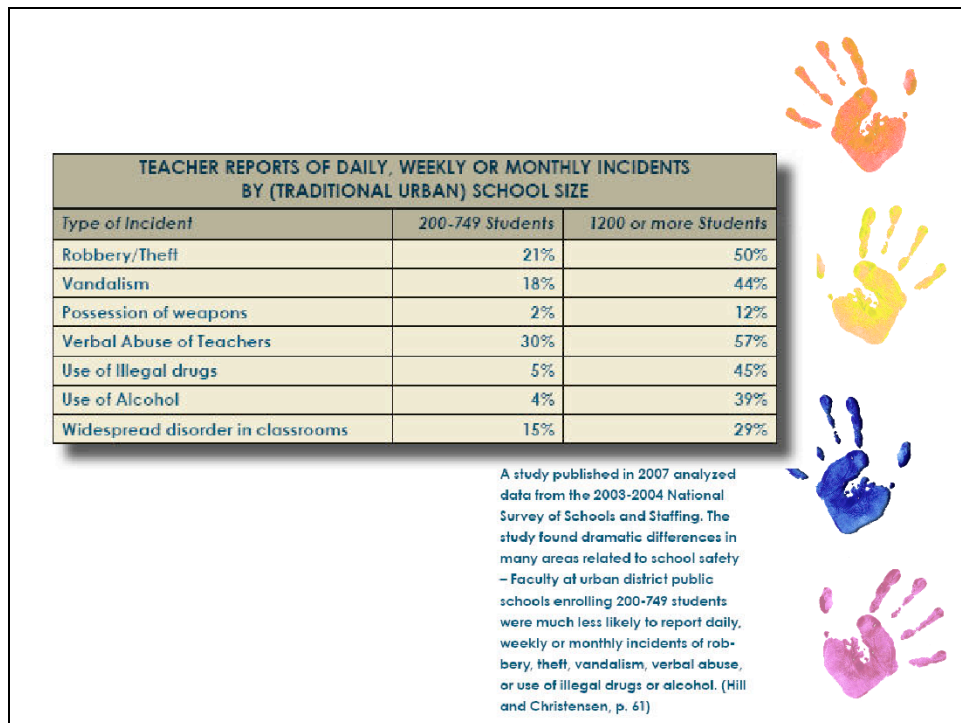
There are many studies in Canada and United States that have successfully verified and quantified the benefits of a small school educational system. In fact, some of these studies have been supported and endorsed by a person that most of us know of ....

## The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Bill Gates of the legendary Microsoft Corporation. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have provided grants to study the effect on small schools with the development of students.

What does the wealthiest person on the planet want us to learn?



The data is conclusive and indicates that on average small schools excel in following areas:

- Safety
- Student development
- Reduction of discipline
- Increased satisfaction of student, family and teacher
- Increased academic achievement
- Higher graduation rates

## Long Lake Public School

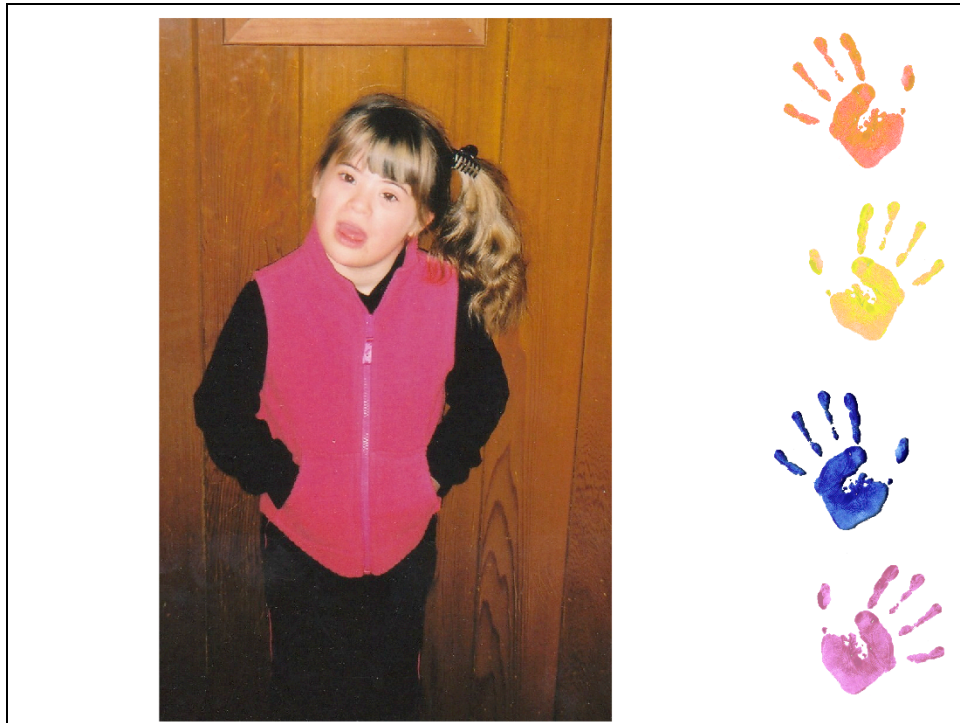


My name is Mike Gribbons and our story is about Jade.

Our daughter attended Long Lake Public School - “a small school” from Kindergarten to Grade Six.

Jade is an average child. At 5 she loved Barney, Sesame Street and all things Disney.

She always had an abundance of school friends visiting our home.



The one single thing that set Jade apart from her peer group was an extra chromosome.

Jade was born with Down syndrome, a genetic disease that results in slower physical and mental development.

As a result Jade remained at Long Lake Grade school for an additional 3 years.

This allowed us as parents a unique opportunity to understand the value of a small school.

## Safe school setting



The results of a smaller class size and smaller school setting allowed Jade to flourish.

It was a safe setting for early educational learning and development of social skills.

The environment allows both the students and teachers to know each other across all grades. This is not always possible in a larger grade school environment.





The benefit was not only to Jade but also to the rest of the students and teachers.

The students became close friends of Jade and learned about her developmental issues. Jade has still remained close friends with all of her classmates even though some are nearing the end of high school.

The teachers were heartened with Jade's enthusiasm and efforts. It made coming to work fun!





We as parents feel that the small school setting allowed her to develop her skills to the absolute best of her abilities.

We also feel that in a larger or mega school setting this development would have been severely hindered.

In closing we feel that this school has a strong value for both the student and community.