

Gratitude and Grief: My Son's Experience with ThinkGive

By Jill Yates

Middle school parent

We will be forever grateful for ThinkGive and the positive work they are doing to help children build awareness around empathy and inclusion. ThinkGive's emphasis on how small acts of kindness can make a big impact in the community empowers students to see themselves as agents of positive change on a daily basis.

When our son George went through the ThinkGive program in both 6th and 7th grade at Concord Middle School, his English teachers (Alyssa Bigay and Laura Regis) worked closely with ThinkGive's mission to pair themes around belonging, identity, and compassion with the texts the students were analyzing and writing about. This strong partnership enhanced both the book's themes and deepened ThinkGive's impact.

One of the ThinkGive assignments was to write a story about belonging and gratitude. George chose to write a letter to his Grandfather (Bapa), who lost his fight to cancer in 2014. Even though George came to class as an empathetic and thoughtful student, it was this powerful partnership with ThinkGive that fostered an environment where George could express his feelings of gratitude and loss in a deeply moving and compelling way.

We so commend CMS and ThinkGive for their mission to help students step out of their comfort zone and think differently about the power of giving. There is no doubt ThinkGive is strengthening the communities we live in by empowering students to lead with acts of kindness. ThinkGive's lasting impact on our students and schools gives us hope for a brighter future.

