

determined and, in my view, extremely courageous. Integration can teach us all many valuable lessons in accepting others' limitations without harming anyone's academic endeavours.

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is freedom from prejudice of any kind. By shielding our 'perfect' children we are not doing them any favours; we are, in fact, doing them a grave injustice. Children are naturally non-judgmental and I find it unforgivable to foist the unfair labels and prejudgments of some adults onto the shoulders of children.

*Candice Gertz, Oromocto, New Brunswick
Mother of Mandy's friend*

Looking back, I have no regrets as to the path we chose for Mandy. As pioneers in our educational system and as advocates for the acceptance of people with differences into communities, our pleasure and success came in our relationship with our daughter. As parents we were only catalysts, providing her with the opportunities to build and develop friendships at school and in the community. Yet many times I asked myself, "What do I really want for Mandy?" One day, as I looked out my front window, I knew.

There, as the wind whistled about and the first snow flurry of the year danced in the air, two little girls sat with their jackets off. They knew that they weren't allowed to have their coats off but it was fun. As they laughed and played on the lawn swing they tried to catch snowflakes on their tongues. Suddenly, overwhelmed, tears began to stream down my face. I said out loud, "*This is what it is really all about! This is the kind of life I want for both my children. This is the future. A future where integration is no longer an issue but a fact of life.*"

I have learned never to "judge a book by its cover". I have learned that change is not easy and it does not happen overnight. You have to make it happen! As I look to the future I