October 20, 2014

Dear Teacher Associate,

First of all, thank you for letting me into your classroom for the next five weeks. Last year I transferred from the University of Calgary specifically to enter the education program in Lethbridge, so I am absolutely stoked to begin my first practicum with you and your students.

I've wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. As a kid, I loved school because I had amazing friends and fantastic teachers, so I simply couldn't imagine future that did not involve the classroom. Over the years I cultivated a couple other passions as well, but reading and writing was always high on the list. I look at stories as a means of escape, exploration, and understanding. A story can be one of the most powerful forms of expression, so naturally, this passion led me to becoming an English major. I've spent the past three years with my nose in books, my ears open to discussion, and men pen primed on the paper. Pretty glamourous work, if I do say so myself.

When I escape the clutches of a good book I enjoy a variety of activities, ranging from crafting to climbing. I love playing my flute (or at least pretending to play, as I'm a bit out of practice) and fiddling around with paper and glue as I scrapbook. Summers find me on the mountain trails, hiking and camping, while the winters meet me on the ski slopes. During the year, I continue my involvement with Girl Guides as a leader of the 6th Lethbridge Brownie Unit. I think I have just as much fun, if not more fun, facilitating games, crafts, and field trips for the girls. It is a real treat to work with such talented and enthusiastic little minds who have such a unique way of seeing the world.

So far I have only had good experiences with the children I work with, and I hope to continue that trend in your classroom. I am anxious to stretch my teaching muscles and I thank you again for your time and support, and I hope November and December are enjoyable for the both of us!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Van Dewark