

## *Jasmines' story*

*Some of you may have heard the sad news that one of our elementary students, Jasmine Macias, passed away in the summer of August, 2008.*

*Jasmine started at Oneonta when she was 4 years old, in the preschool in Ms Irma's class. The last school year she was here, Jasmine was a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader in Ms Vangie's class.*

*Early in the summer o 2008, Jasmine, along with her mom and grandma went on a fun vacation to Spain. During the vacation Jasmine would tell her mom that she was often very tired, so when they returned to Los Angeles, her mom took her straight from the airport to see a doctor. The doctors did many tests and told Jasmine's mom, Rosy, that her little daughter had an illness known as leukemia, which is a type of cancer. Jasmine was then sent to get treatment at Children's hospital in Los Angeles.*

*Ms Vangie, Ms Amie, Ms Audrey, Ms Dushy, Ms Irma and I went to visit Jasmine in the hospital. Jasmine was very happy to see us. We had taken her many presents and we enjoyed spending time with her in her room where she showed us the many art projects she had made in the hospital, and talked happily about Hannah Montana, her favorite idol. She also told us really funny stories about what her friends did at school and how she missed being here at Oneonta.*

*Very soon after our visit, her illness grew worse and finally took its toll on her little body. On August 14<sup>th</sup> Jasmine passed away peacefully. It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to our precious little friend.*

*Jasmine's mom, Rosy, along with all of us at Oneonta, decided that we would like to keep Jasmine's memory alive by doing something very special for our little friend. Rosy would raise money by selling Sees Candy during our annual fund raiser and we would give a \$500.00 tuition scholarship to one special student who we felt had similar traits as Jasmine for the next 8 years.*

*Jasmine was a wonderful friend to all; she was kind, compassionate, trustworthy, tender, humble, helpful and sincere. Jasmine was not your typical 8 year old; she had a way of affecting everyone who knew her in a very positive way. On one memorable day Ms Dorothy was sitting in her class, not in the best of moods & feeling down. Jasmine walked up to her and said, "Ms Dorothy, I like it when you smile." Coming from a then little first grader, this was very uplifting for Ms. Dorothy and she remembers it like it were yesterday. Even when she was sick, Jasmine never wavered in displaying a positive attitude and her trademark happy nature. It is for this reason that we decided to celebrate Jasmine's memory in this very special way.*

*Every year elementary teachers nominate 2 children from each class, Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, who they feel qualifies for the award. We then we narrow it down to one student. We feel this student epitomizes the qualities that Jasmine so wonderfully displayed throughout her short life.*

*I want all of you to know that we can all learn something from Jasmine's short life, and that is, to smile more often. So let me see all those wonderful smiling faces girls and boys.*