

I loved her because of all the trouble she took to make me feel special and will forever remember her for her beautiful nature.

She recommended to the school that I should be screened for Dyslexia and never gave up on me. Grade 6 and 7 were a breeze, by now the school was more aware of my difficulties and really made a big effort to help me. I was given concessions to have tests and exams read to me when I required it.

And now I'm a boarder in High School. My mom can't help me anymore and it's entirely up to me to step up to the plate. It's a decision I made myself, and, although it's tough sometimes, I have no doubt it was the correct one. At PBHS, I quickly became aware of the fact that there is no real help for someone like me. So I wrote a letter (with assistance) to the authorities to highlight my frustrations.

My ultimate goal is to change the system in South Africa, a little bit at a time, so that learners like me will get more support at school in future.

I recommend that you get involved in a sport or a hobby that you enjoy to boost your confidence, that is where friendships are made and nobody knows that you cannot read or write.

I continue go to Carissa for assistance. She has walked hand in hand with me on my rocky journey, she knows my deepest secrets and fears and whenever I have a challenge, I chat to her about it.

She has been my rock and I thank her for her encouragement and wisdom that she has so lovingly passes onto me.

Coach Alex (my cricket coach) you are my Hero as well. Special thanks to my Boss (an awesome tradition at Boy's High for Form 1's) it is an honour and privilege been your Skive, you are a legend and you will always have my back.

There is this Irish Blessing that I love

and would like to share it with you:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields

and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm

of His hand.



A plea for support. Liam's letter to the DA

Dear Honourable Sir ,

My name is Liam Arthur Jooste and am a pupil at Pretoria Boys High. I am 14 years old , suffer from dyslexia and Irlens syndrome. Last year I went to an Educational Psychologist Mrs Claassens an educational psychologist for an educational evaluation to apply for various high schools.

I was turned down from Eduplex because they could not accommodate me due to me been dyslexic. St Albans accepted me , they were extremely kind when Idid their testing as they read the questions to me. However, Sir my dream was always to go to Boy's High. According to Mrs Claasens report I qualified for the following : Time concession, Amanuensis, Spelling concession.

I lag behind in my reading speed by 3 -4 years and 6 years for my phonological awareness.. , 4 years regarding my reading accuracy and 1-2 years regarding my reading comprehension.

When they tested my spelling I was 12 years 11 months old my spelling was equivalent to 8 years and 4 months. My handwriting was equivalent to a Grade 4 learner..

My Generalised Ability Index is 123 which means I fall in the superior bracket.

Mrs Barnard at Pretoria Boys High applied for my concessions and I received extremely bad news they are only allowing me 15 mins concession. Sir my Mom phoned the District Education department and said that anybody can say they are dyslexic ,Sir when I read a question in the exams by the time I have got to the end I have forgotten what I read in the beginning. We now need to put an appeal and I am afraid it is to late. I start exams in a week. in order for the appeal in need to provide work samples once again and now I need to prove to them how dyslexic I am. The local DArepresentative told my Mom she should consider putting me in a private school.

My spelling is pulling my marks down and I have already have had a Sir tell me that been dyslexic is not an excuse and the one Sir that I approached to say that I am battling with these new words he told me that he would expect a statement like that from a Grade 1.

Last year I was belittled in front of my Sepedi class where my teacher said in front of the friends that she has a Grade 0000 in her class whilst I was reading. I asked her to stop , eventually I told her I am going to the Head mistress and she said I could go. Sir I was crying when I left her class. The Head of the Intersen phase starting taking me out of other classes to discuss my attitude as I was accused of been disrespectful towards her. wMa'am was the only teacher that had a problem with me.

Sir the Exams are a week away , I am extremely anxious , if my marks are not up to scratch I may be asked to leave my beloved Rissik House.

The only thing I am good in is Maths I made the Applied Maths class and got 91% for it. At the beginning of the year I was invited to attend a Maths programme held by Tukkies , unfortunately I did not make it as I had great difficulty reading and understanding the questions. My friends that made the programme don't even get the Maths marks that I get in class.

With your help and guidance , I want to approach MEC Mr Lesufi and tell him what is more important helping learners like me that have learning disabilities or are hairdo's and school trousers more important. Then I want to go to our Parliament , tell them how difficult it is for dyslexics to succeed in our Education System and then we go to the United Nations to tell them how they discriminate against dyslexics in South Africa. May I take my Mom and Mr Reeler my Head Master for backup.

My mom is quite strict so I don't have a cell phone nor an e-mail address, You can contact my Mom.

Honourable Sir, you are the only person that will help me even if theyjust give me a temporary spelling concession and time for these exams , aswe received the GED's reply last week Tuesday.

Looking forward to your response.

Liam Jooste