

Dear Ms. Case,

I teach Music at McAuliffe, McAllen ISD. This year we were able to take the fifth graders to see your performance of the Nutcracker. The students (even the big 'bad' boys) were enthralled. I warned them ahead of time to not clap or yell when they saw their very own Lizzie Cuellar appear on stage. They didn't but, our section resounded with excited whispers and much pointing every time she came on stage. The entire production was outstanding. Incredibly professional and exciting. Thank you for producing the Nutcracker for the Valley every year. It brings a bit of metropolitan to us.

The students were so 'in to' the ballet partly because we had been studying the Nutcracker since August in Music class. I wrote a drama and found words for several of the pieces for the Nutcracker therefore, all fifth graders had heard various versions besides learning their parts in order to perform the Nutcracker at school.

Only one student had ever really studied dance. She gave up every recess period for over two months to assist me with teaching her peers to dance the Russian Dance, the Chinese Dance, and the Arabic Dance. She created dance steps for the Sugar Plum Dance in it's entirety then worked with the students to memorize it. During her 'spare' time, Lizzie practiced and gave an awesome performance of the Reed Dance. She worked tirelessly to help produce a great program.

Of course she learned from the best. Lizzie Cuellar has been your student for several years. She not only has copied you in her dancing but also in her dedication to teaching with a wonderful attitude. Due to your teaching and Lizzie's talent and faithfulness, our fifth grade production of the Nutcracker was a huge success.

Thank you for training such a talented student.

Stephanie Contreras