

"This year I volunteered at school on a regular basis. I never went to any of the fancy trips. I only did the 'little jobs'. However, because I volunteered, even for those little tasks, I saw so many things. I saw the dedication of the staff, all of them working non-stop and long after the classroom door closes in the evening. I saw how volunteers are an important part of this amazing school dynamic so our children can have some very important 1-to-1 or small group sessions adapted to their needs to make their learning and school experience better. I was able to see my own child and his little friends' progress in reading, swimming, counting..., and see first hand how amazing the learning process is and how clever those kids are. I was able to hear countless times our children sing their hearts out so we could be proud of them when they would perform for us. I met fantastic parents who juggle/struggle as much as everyone else (me included) and it made me feel I wasn't alone. I made new friends. I witnessed a newly qualified teacher take the time to run around and play along with our children at the park and feel how much those kids liked him and how he enjoyed being with them too. Volunteering is not always fun and takes some of our free time we could use for other things, but I have loved taking this time to improve my child's experience at school and seeing how the school works from the inside. It gives you a new perspective on things. So if you can volunteer even only a few times a year, please do. Come and witness all those things first hand too. It's worth it. There are always opportunities. Remember it's not just to bother you that they ask. Please don't think there will always be someone to do it, or that they will not cancel if there are no helpers (it does happen, more often than you think). Remember it's for your child and a bunch of very deserving kids' benefit, who might miss out on things if there aren't any parent helpers to do the 'little jobs' in the background to free the teachers' time to do those things. And who knows? You might even enjoy yourself in the process!"