

First lady acknowledges Mother Seton student's sculpture

When third-grader Tabitha Gregory considered selections for a biography project at Mother Seton School, Emmitsburg, her mother helped her decide on first lady Laura Bush.

Tabitha said she found it interesting that the first lady grew up in Texas, worked at a library, liked reading, attended the funeral of Pope John Paul II, and has the president of the United States for a husband. On the day of her oral presentation, Tabitha dressed as Mrs. Bush as she reported facts and photos to the class.

Tabitha again chose the first lady several months later in art class when she was required to create a plaster sculpture. Art teacher Karolyne Myers encouraged students to enter their sculptures in a contest at the Emmitsburg Public Library in celebration of its 100th anniversary. Tabitha's "Laura Bush" won a first-place ribbon.

The student shared her excitement with the first lady by writing a letter and sending a photo of the project. Mrs. Bush responded, thanking Tabitha for choosing her as a subject.

"I appreciate your kind words about my changing the world by showing children that reading is important," wrote the first lady. "The photo shows you did a terrific job, and I especially like the fact that you show me reading a book. I hope you and your classmates at Mother Seton School are reading lots of good books."

Accompanying the letter was an autographed photo and a list of Mrs. Bush's favorite books for all ages. Tabitha plans to write again to the first lady, this time to send a get well message and her prayers for Mrs. Bush's recovery from a skin cancer tumor.