

Bicentennial Essay Contest

Gabriella Cardenas

It was late at night and I was very tired. I decided to go to bed. I fell fast asleep. Next thing I know, I wake up, and things look different. Where am I, I thought. I travelled back in time. It was Mt. Clemens in the year 1818. Boy, were things different. Suddenly, I hear my mom calling me to get dressed for school. I get out of bed and reach for my uniform to get dressed, but realized I didn't have one. Hanging up in my closet was a long dress, I put it on. As we were ready to leave for school, I looked for the car, but soon realized that cars weren't invented yet. So, I had to walk to school! After a long day of school, I would normally grab my iPad and go play games, but my mother was calling me to help make dinner. So, I walked in the kitchen to help my mom. It was getting dark so I looked for the light switch to turn on the light, when I noticed there was nothing there. We had to do everything by candlelight because electricity wasn't invented yet. After supper, I helped clean up, and finished my homework. The next day, since there was no school, I had to help with chores. My chores included cleaning the dishes, tidying up my room, and mopping the floors. Once all of my responsibilities were done, I decided to meet my friends down by the Clinton River to have some fun! So I grabbed my fishing pole and tackle box. We fished and swam all day and had a great time playing in the river. I even caught enough fish for my family to eat for supper. It was so much fun watching the boats come down the river and hearing the trains blow their horns. It was time for me to go home, so I said goodbye to all my friends, grabbed my fishing pole, tackle box, and all my fish and headed home. After another long day, I fell fast asleep. When I woke up I was back in 2017.

What a crazy dream I thought! Everyday things were done so differently back then. Children in 1818 had much more responsibilities than children do now. Most kids today don't worry if they can go to school, or have food on their table, most are just thankful for the things they have and don't realize things could be different. It made me appreciate that you can have fun without electricity, without TV, and without electronics. Although, the year 1818, seemed like a lot of fun, I am glad to be back in 2017. If it wasn't

for the hard work of people like Christian Clemens who was so important for making Mt. Clemens a great city, I would not be able to enjoy being a part of a great school like St. Mary School!