



popcult: The price of a snow day

By Crissy Lauterbach

The thermometer read minus three degrees as the air whipped across the football field to push me through the school doors. We had lost the snow day lottery and were the only school in session in our area. It was time to put on my game face and get down to business.

"Miss L, we should have had a snow day," Sara said. "It is way too cold to be here."

Not skipping a beat, I said, "Sara, did you know that in the Middle East, a woman with an education fetches a higher dowry for marriage than

convince her that every minute is precious in education.

"Did you know that in 'Waiting for Superman' and 'Won't Back Down,' they repeatedly highlighted the fact that prisons in America are built based upon the number of students who fail the 3rd-grade reading test? And according to the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, 82% of people incarcerated in U.S. prisons have not received their high school diploma," I said. "Is staying in bed really worth increasing your chance of going to prison?"

"My warm bed may be worth increasing my chance of prison by .005% for one day," Sara said. "It was just too hard to get here."

Moving closer to her, I said, "You think it was hard to get to school today? Oprah highlighted a young woman named Khadijah Williams who lived on the actual Skid Row in Los Angeles. Through determination and hard work, she made it to Harvard on a full scholarship.

"In 12 years, Khadijah attended 12 different schools while living in the Union Rescue Mission. Determined to graduate, she woke up every morning at 4 a.m. to walk past prostitutes and drug dealers who teased

her about being smart and tried to prevent her from catching a bus to Jefferson High School, which was two hours away. She did her homework on the bus or at the library because the mission she lived in turned off the lights at 10 p.m. Talk about hard," I said. "She did this every day, without complaining, to get an education."

Rolling her eyes, Sara laughed.

"You got me, Miss L," she said. "Boy, you never give up."

As a teacher, you can never give up, especially when you learn about amazing people like Khadijah or read articles about Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban for going to school in Pakistan and speaking out about allowing women to be educated.

While our warm beds and the desire to roll over and hit the snooze button one more time may be powerful, we must rally and make every day we have with our students valuable. Fifteen extra minutes of sleep is great, but the value of an education? Priceless! **GO**

CRISSY LAUTERBACH is a Teacher Academy instructor and FEA advisor at Lakota East High School in the Butler Tech School District in Liberty Township, Ohio.

We must rally and make every day we have with our students valuable.

an uneducated woman? Every day counts in education."

"Oh Miss L, I am not getting married, and missing one day is not going to change my life," she said.

Now the gauntlet had been thrown, and I was going to