

# #BrotherlyLove

By: Bebe Bode



Oh yeah! It's that time of year again when everyone is celebrating graduation. From kindergarten through college celebrations are plentiful.

My family had reason to celebrate this year. My baby boy, (as I call him) Parker, graduated from St. Christopher School (SCS) as the last 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in the history of the school. The graduation ceremony took place in the church and was very beautiful.

Parker's been on the honor roll during his time at SCS and was inducted into the National Beta Society. He won several awards graduation night, but the highlights were; 1<sup>st</sup> place on essay written about the American Flag, Highest Average in Reading, and Good Citizenship. We were all so proud of him and stood and cheered (WooHoo'ed) each time they called his name.

After the graduation ceremony there was a party in the Parish Center for the students and families. I was busy running around taking pictures of Parker and his friends. Then, I noticed Parker's big brother, Seth, approaching him so I started taking pictures.

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Not only was there a hug, but these words from Seth to his brother, **“I’m proud of you, Park!”**

I could see Parker welling up with tears... and he said, **“Mom, Seth told me he was proud of me!”**



This may sound typical, a brother telling his sibling he is proud of him, but in our case it is not. Seth has Autism, and although he can speak and express his needs, he rarely comments on his environment or shares his thoughts.



When Seth did so without prompting from anyone, I could tell from Parker’s face this was the best award he received all night. It was priceless to be able to have shared this unforgettable moment with my boys and husband.



I wrote an article in the Winter 2009 Exceptional Times titled, **“Married with Children”**. The story is about explaining Seth’s disability to Parker. In The PROMPTer V-23 I-2, Parker was featured in the Kids Korner in an article he wrote titled, **“About my Brother”**.

As I reread the articles I noted above, and while writing

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this, I began to well up...like that don't happen often! LOL! I also began to feel a sense of relief and more secure in my role as Parker and Seth's mother. I've witnessed their bond continue to grow until this very day. They both make me shine with such pride and joy, at times I feel like I may burst. Corny but true!

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