I was born in Regina at the General Hospital on Sunday, October 24th, 1999. My family calls me the ‘Miracle Baby’ because I had a less than 5% chance of being born alive and healthy. Let me rewind back several years and explain why.

My dad met my mom at the 1995 Grey Cup that was being held here in Regina. My mom already had twin boys from a previous marriage. In 1987, she had a tubal ligation, which means having her tubes tied. Even though my dad refers to my older brothers as his own kids, him and mom really wanted to have one more after they got married. With her having the operation done years back, the idea seemed impossible. That was until the doctor suggested a very new way of having children which is called In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) or ‘Test tube baby.’ It required a lot of doctor trips to Calgary and Saskatoon, a lot of needles, and a butt load of money. At this time, my mom was 40 years old. A 40 year old woman trying to get pregnant was not very common and the chances of the pregnancy being successful through IVF was a less than 5% chance. Even though the odds were (very) against them, they gave it a chance. If you haven’t figured it out yet, IVF was successful since I am here to tell the story. My half brothers and I are 21 years apart and I now have 5 nieces and nephews.

The reason why I enjoy telling that story is to remind people that even if the odds are not in your favour does not mean you should not go for your dreams. I believe that my story can give people hope. People in society normally give up on things if the odds seem against them. Even if your odds are low, it does not mean it is *not* possible. When I am a teacher one day, I want to tell this story to my students in hopes that it will inspire them to never give up with anything in life. Then I want to remind them that if things don’t work out in their favour, it means that it was not meant to happen and that is okay. Every single human being will have something not work out the way they hoped it would. I want to teach students that failures are not failures, but rather lessons and leading us to the life we are all meant to live. We have all been dealt different cards in our lifetimes.

One of the best compliments I ever got was this past summer at one of my jobs. I was talking to my co worker who also is a high school teacher about my switch from business into education. He said to me, “yeah…..if I was a grade 2 student, I would definitely like you as a teacher.” It may seem like an interesting compliment to some people, but it was something I needed to hear and made me feel really good. It was reassuring that my switch into education seemed like it was going to be a great journey for me and lead me one step closer to finding myself. He continued to explain why he says that and said it is because of my cheery and bubbly personality. I believe that if you were to ask any of my close friends, they would all say that I’m a bubbly person who is always happy. I believe that I will be able to use expression and my bubbly personality as a mix to keep students entertained in class while still learning at the same time.

A quote that has really stuck with me is ‘be the person you needed when you were younger’ (unknown). I remember hearing that quote back in high school and thinking how true it is and that everyone should hear it. It is a quote I tell myself often and I truly find it makes me be a better person because I want to be a positive role model in society. My oldest niece is 16 years old. She is in that ‘awkward’ stage of her life. High school is a weird time for everyone at one point because it is when you and your friends start to mature, but some mature faster than others and life seems to get complicated. You start to realize you have more emotions than you ever thought you did and you learn how to control them. Every so often, I remind her that I am always here for her if she ever needs advice or just someone to talk too. I have also gotten to know some of her close friends and I have said the same thing to them. There have been times where I have felt that I did not have anyone I could reach out to that could give me advice or listen to me rant. I do not want anyone to ever feel like that because it is not a feeling anyone deserves. When I become a teacher, I want to be there for each and every one of my students whenever they need someone. I want to help them overcome obstacles and have them know that they are never alone. It is so crucial to be there for them now, so they can one day be there for someone younger than them.

My mom is a very organized and clean person. You will never find a dirty dish in our sink for more than 15 minutes. Growing up, I always had to do chores. I remember thinking to myself how much I hated cleaning and I thought my mom was just the worst for making me do it. Fast forward 10 years later, I can confidently say that I am grateful my mom made me learn how to take care of a house because it has made me a clean and responsible person. I walk into some of my friends rooms and I cannot even see the floor and I just think to myself how happy that I am not one of those people. I owe it all to my mom because she is the reason why I am a clean and organized person. I believe that as an educator, having that organized characteristic is such an important key in being a successful teacher to students. I remember my grade 6 teacher was one of the most organized people I have ever met. Mrs. Porritt’s desk and classroom was always in a neat and organized structure. From what I remember, she never seemed to be stressed out by forgetting or misplacing something. My grade 7 teacher was not even comparable to Mrs Porritt. She was always forgetting assignments at home, or even losing them before she got the chance to mark it. I have a vivid memory of her sitting at her desk with her head in her hands after telling us to read quietly for the rest of class time before recess because she had forgotten an assignment we were suppose to do. This is a memory that I do not want my students to ever have of me one day but rather have memories similar to the ones I have of Mrs Porritt. I am fortunate enough to say that I have had more organized teachers than not organized in my years of school and I believe that has had a positive impact on the person I am today. We look up to our teachers even when we do not realize we are. If I would have had all unorganized teachers, there is a high chance I would not be an organized student because I would think ‘well if they are not an organized teacher, then why should I be an organized student?’

I am someone who works better if I give myself an incentive or reward at the end of an assignment/studying session. In my elementary and high school years, I would have teachers give us incentives to help us work harder and more efficiently. I remember at the beginning of grade 8, my teacher noticed that some of us in his class were not handing things in on time or handing in uncompleted assignments. He started this incentive that when he handed back marked assignments, he would tape a sucker on some if we handed it in on time or got 100% on it. Then if we ALL handed it in on time, we would get an even bigger prize. That technique makes you work even harder because you don not want to be the one to let your peers down. What 12-13 year old doesn’t love sugar as an incentive to get homework done?! It was genius. I definitely remember it made us use our time more wisely. Since I am someone who is a believer in incentives and have seen it work on myself and other classmates, I will also be doing the same technique one day as a teacher. I really like the idea that if all my students were to hand something in on time they would all be rewarded. Not only is it teaching them to be responsible but also teaching them teamwork skills. They all need to play their part in order to be successful, just like any sports team. Everyone has to carry some weight in order to not let one another down. Not every child plays a sport growing up due to choice or even because the family cannot afford it, but every child here in Regina gets the opportunity to go to school. Teaching them teamwork skills in a classroom is important because then all students can learn the aspects of what a team is rather if they play sports or not. There are so many times in our society where you need to be able to work as a team to be successful. If you are not taught that skill at a young age, it can be difficult to adapt to it the older you get. It is our responsibility as future educators to remember that teamwork trait going into a classroom.