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Re: Reference letter in support of Alexandra Crawshaw

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support my ex- student teacher in this open letter of reference because I believe Alexandra Crawshaw to possess outstanding potential as a teacher and because she has proven herself to be an exceptional student teacher during her stage with me.

I have been teaching for 18 years and have had many student teachers pass through my classes for the last 12 years. There are some I remember, some I forget and other still that I keep in touch with. I believe that fantastic teachers are people who connect with kids, remember facts about them, use humour in their teaching and above all, care about each child as an individual. They are able to recognize needs through assessment and are able to recognize and work on their own foibles. Alexandra Crawshaw meets these criteria and I will keep in touch with her.

Alexandra joined my grade 4 class in February 2016 and very quickly established a kind authority based on getting to know and connecting with the students. I knew right away that her approach would be successful. She never had to raise her voice in class and managed the entire class with a few well chosen words and her personality.

The clientele is not an easy one at Westmount Park School, we have a very high international population that requires much help in English and Alex was able to produce differentiated work for our new, non-English speaking students that was engaging and at their academic level.

I very quickly felt as if I had a colleague in the classroom with me and not a student and that is a rare phenomenon. Alex was able to discuss the students and the school as a whole and put together a school wide literacy project that was implemented in June that was designed to address the summer reading gap and culminated in every student in the school choosing one or two books to take home and read in the summer. Alex wrote press releases and organized school wide literacy events such as; dressing as a favourite character from a book for a day, visiting storytellers, a whole school book swap and requesting gently used books on Canadian radio. The event was a huge success because of her vision and dedication.

Throughout her stage Alex created teaching materials that other teachers came and asked for copies of, her portfolio is testament to the quality of her work. Alexandra fitted really well into the school and class and I believe that this would be the case anywhere. She has an adventurous spirit and this coupled with her excellent and instinctive teaching qualities will take her far in her career.

I wish Alexandra well and hope that you will consider this letter of reference. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the above coordinates should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Tytler