



MULGRAVE SCHOOL

To whom it may concern,

May 20, 2013

I had the pleasure to work with Mahla Shapiro during her internship at Mulgrave School where she contributed positively in many areas of the school and made a strong impact on both students and teachers in her time here. She demonstrated her diversity by participating in and teaching in the IB Visual Arts courses, Theory of Knowledge courses and Physical Education courses. She also played a role in the leadership and planning of the Granville Island visual art field trip, taking the initiative to arrange a tour at her alma mater, Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

As a practising artist herself, Mahla shared a slideshow of her own work with the visual arts students. She brought to life many of the concepts that the IB aims to impart to students around being inspired by research, working to a theme, and making your work personally meaningful. Mahla also demonstrated first-hand how the concepts, skills and materials present in one project can provide impetus for the inspiration for an artist's next project. She also has the ability to meet students where they are at, to empathize with them and to act as a mentor, asking questions and encouraging them to take the next step.

Mahla also immediately understood and embraced the philosophy and spirit of the IB Theory of Knowledge class. She felt comfortable contributing relevant and insightful comments which furthered the students' thinking during our class discussions. Mahla also led a thought-provoking and well-rounded discussion that linked ethics and the arts. The students were fully engaged and felt comfortable contemplating the knowledge issues she presented.

Based on Mahla's passion for visual arts, her teaching skills and her immediate rapport with the students, we have been pleased to invite her to teach several visual art afternoon courses next year.

Mahla's skills are many and her commitment to excellence is clear. She is a dedicated artist and teacher with many and varied talents to offer any community.

Sincerely,

Christine Giesbrecht

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