



Morinville Community High School

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Letter of Recommendation - Joanne Moore

To Whom It May Concern,

During the 2002-2003 academic year I had the pleasure of meeting Joanne Moore in my role as Curriculum/ AISI Consultant for Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. Her name was brought to my attention by a group of administrators who had attended one of Joanne's reading/writing workshops at a conference for literacy. As a result of the enthusiasm of these school administrators and reading Joanne's resources, I was compelled to contact Joanne. Joanne and I discussed how she could help improve student success in literacy in our school division. Throughout the 2002 - 2003 school year Joanne and I planned 4 full-day professional development sessions for Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools' teachers. These sessions focused on effective teaching strategies using *Smart Start*, *Reading with Results* and *Writing with Results*.

From the very first workshop, our teaching staff were thrilled with the learning opportunities Joanne provided. Joanne's programs are rooted in solid educational research: allowing teachers to work powerfully with students. We know that professional development is most effective when it is systemic, ongoing, job-embedded and collaborative. Joanne's workshops captured all of these components. Her workshops were not "sit and get" professional development that gets lost in "real life" the day following the workshop. Joanne's strategies for reading and writing worked in the "real life" of the classroom. Joanne gave our teachers time to think, plan, collaborate, and make posters and materials for their classrooms, so that the day after the workshop the "rubber hit the road" in student learning. Joanne's ideas were immediately implemented into the our classrooms. Teachers were expected to try new ideas, and held accountable to bring back action research from their classrooms to the next professional development session in order to build on the previous session's knowledge and skills.

It has been 4 years since Joanne's inserviced our teachers and her ideas and resources are still being used in our school division. In a culture where instructional ideas come and go quickly, Joanne's ideas have longevity. Recently, I asked teachers who were inserviced on the program to send me an update on the following 2 questions. First, "are you still using Joanne Moore's programs and resources in the classroom?" And second, "what impact has Joanne's approach had on student learning and literacy?" Teachers from schools throughout our school division responded. The few comments that I have chosen represent the themes that were most common:

- "I've had better success using Joanne Mores approach than ANY other method for Word Work. . . Parents and educational visitors have often commented that students 'know how they know.' They develop lots of metacognition."
- "The idea of linking the literature to story writing has been powerful."

- "Through Joanne Moore, we learned to help our students to use their senses in their writing to describe what was seen, smelled, heard, felt or tasted."
- Joanne's sensory imagery, 'Show, not tell' has made my students' writing vibrant. The sensory imagery (action verbs) bring student writing to life."
- "I have used Joanne Mores program for a full 3 years and I have noticed that even less motivated students benefit greatly from this program. A higher percentage of students in my class seem to be reading earlier than before using the Smart Start Program."
- "The story pattern lessons give children a framework to guide their writing. All students can write a story, . . . even those who struggle."

I recommend Joanne Moore's programs, resources, and workshops to teachers and school divisions wanting to improve literacy. Joanne Moore's work with Greater St. Albert Catholic schools was influential and long-lasting. It is obvious that Joanne is passionate about teaching children to read and write. Her workshops and resources are practical and have an instant impact on student success.

Sincerely,



Ms. M. Melnyk
Vice-Principal
Morinville Community High School