



ST. DOMINIC  
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Principal: Mark Byrne*

RECEIVED JAN 31 2014

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24 January 2014

Mr. John Green  
Boys and Girls Club of Kawartha Lakes  
107 Lindsay St. S  
Lindsay, Ontario  
K9V 2M5

Dear Mr. Green,

I am writing to you today to congratulate you and your organization on the implementation of the Adventure Quest (AQ) program. Over my three and half years as a principal at St. Dominic CES, I have witnessed the profound impact this program has made upon the lives of our students, their families, and indeed our staff.

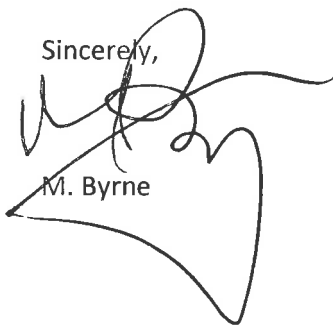
During my time at this school, we have had three students work through this program, and while each one's experience is naturally unique, the quality of your staff and their work has always been at the highest level. The knowledge, understanding, compassion, and collaborative nature of both Bruce Scott and Ashley Kulla not only serve them well when working with our students, but also provide a remarkable model for the children to follow. Our students have benefitted greatly from the work these two formidable individuals have done with them, providing them with a myriad of strategies to use in their academic, social, and spiritual lives. The respect that absolutely every one of our students in the AQ program demonstrates for your staff speaks volumes, not only about their skills as educators, but also the values they hold dear and instil in others. I can fully assure you that each student's life was made better thanks to their involvement with this remarkable program.

Similarly, the families of our students have been blessed by their involvement with AQ. Bruce and Ashley routinely go above and beyond their mandate of working with the families, and indeed become an integral part of their journey toward greater familial harmony. Your staff members refuse to ever 'give up' on our students and their families, again providing not only valuable advice and services, but also modelling perseverance and positive action. While consistently supportive and enthusiastic with the families, Bruce and Ashley do not shy away from having 'difficult conversations' when deemed necessary. It is obvious that their goal is success for the student and the family, and they go to great lengths to do their best to ensure this is achieved.

Finally, I can tell you that our school staff has benefitted from our involvement in the AQ program, as the strategies taught are clearly communicated to them, helping to ensure consistency throughout. Your staff members are always collaborative with and supportive of our staff members. They work closely with classroom teacher, Resource Teacher, and Administration to create a plan of action that works best for the student and all other stakeholders as well.

I must admit that, before I arrived at St. Dominic CES, I wasn't aware that such a program as Adventure Quest even existed, as I don't believe it is offered in Peterborough or Cobourg where I had worked previously. I can tell you that I now find it an indispensable program for the segment of our student population who need it the most, a number that seems to increase with each passing year. I have personally witnessed the positive growth of our students and listened to the testimonials of exceedingly grateful parents who have found strategies not only for their children, but for their entire families as well. I do not believe it is hyperbole to state that this program has saved many students by giving them the skills to succeed and by proving to them that there are people who value them so much that they would do virtually anything they can to make their lives better. If at all possible, this is a program that deserves to be expanded so that even more of our community are able to enjoy the many gifts it offers. I truly believe that our society as a whole does now and will continue to benefit greatly from this remarkable program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Byrne', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

M. Byrne