



蛇口国际学校
SHEKOU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in regard to Mary Alice Osborne whom I have worked with at Shekou International School (SIS) since August 2007. Shekou International School is a private international school with over 500 students from Pre-Kindergarten to grade 12. SIS is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. During the time I have known her, Mary Alice has worked as head librarian for our growing school.

Mary Alice is an exceptional school librarian. Although the school has been in existence for 19 years, she is the first Western trained librarian that we have had. She has been able to take a room with books that we have called the "library" and make it the "heart" of the school from Kindergarten to grade 12.

This year the school has expanded to two campuses. Mary Alice was able to establish the Middle School and High School library with her own ideas. This included expanding the collection, establishing programs and even helping design the furniture. She also had responsibilities organizing and promoting the elementary library on the other campus.

Mary Alice has worked hard this year to establish a positive culture in regards to the library. The library and librarian was not seen as a resource in the past. Mary Alice has changed that perception. She works diligently to integrate library and research into the core and specialist curriculum. Her projects this year have ranged from helping grade 7 Humanities students with their study of religion to working with the life skills teacher to find resources related to self-esteem. Mary Alice has also worked towards establishing standards and benchmarks for the library program based on the new American Association of School Librarians 21st Century Library Learning Standards.

Mary Alice has many strengths and one that I enjoy observing is her interactions with students. She is driven by doing what is best for students. Through monthly themes and activities, she has been able to draw students into her area. One of my favorite activities was the Middle School Book Bowl. She selected 11 books from around the world that represented a variety of cultures and perspectives. The Middle School students then read the books as part of a competition that included making book marks, book jackets, writing letters from a characters perspective, and performing skits from the books. The students also took part in "quiz bowl" type activities to answer questions about the book. It was a fun competition and the students were engaged in reading. In addition, Mary Alice organized a book week at the elementary campus using the Olympics as a theme. During the "opening ceremony" Mary Alice was able to have a Chinese Olympic medal winner attend. The children were very excited about the activities and motivated to read.

Mary Alice has also developed her own area of the SIS website. This area is not only a showcase of the library and its services; it also promotes literacy and the school in general.

Mary Alice is a wonderful librarian and resource for the school. She would be an asset to any library program.

Sincerely,

Mike Neeland
Bayside Assistant Principal
Shekou International School