

November 8, 2013

To Whomsoever It May Concern.

I have great pleasure in providing a recommendation for Ms Amy Garrett. I have known Ms Garrett for the last 1 and half years as an Art teacher in the elementary school of the American School of Bombay.

As a teacher:

Amy Garrett has been my son Karthik's art teacher the whole of last year (through 2 nd grade) and now currently for grade 3. I volunteered to 'help' for a couple of classes...mostly because I was so intrigued by the concept that she was teaching the children: understanding different styles (impressionism / cubism/collage) through different artists (Monet, Matisse, Picasso) and then leading the child to create his or her own style!

While allowing the kids to be creative and make their own choices, her calm voice and lucid instructions has the attention of the children all the time. She asks gentle probing questions that to motivate the thinking of the child. Never once did she disagree with a child's opinion but gently guided them to think about the choices they make in medium, brushes etc.

Her planning is meticulous, with children sketching or planning what they want to do. It is obvious a great deal of thought has gone into the plan of each class, as well as the overall direction.

With about 17 kids in an art class it could get chaotic as children each work at their own pace. But nothing ever misses her. I recall she gently but firmly correcting and clarifying the difference between the 'title' and the 'style' of the art work.

The careful structure and plan is countered with an impromptu sense of fun too, conducive to bringing out a creative ambience. Music plays when the kids are working. My son recounts how he started dancing to the sound of familiar music. Once, as my son knew the whole name of Picasso, he was encouraged to read the whole name to the rest of the class.

Obviously Amy is well versed in applying technology to Art. Example of these are: the "animated" talking self portraits, and setting up art sites.

With the Parents:

She is positive in attitude and engages and communicates with parents. This includes sharing interesting art sites. She is so obviously interested in learning about art from the country that she is located in. We've had a few interesting conversations on this topic where we shared Indian art books for children.

As an Organiser:

The art exhibition put up by the art teachers to 'showcase' the students' works was almost professional. I believe Amy played a pivotal role in planning and executing it (layout/ arrangement/ choice of artwork). Many parents responded with "I wish we could go back to elementary art school". Ms Garrett helped us to do just that! She responded and took the initiative to have an art session for the parents.

Finally, I have no hesitation in recommending her candidature as an excellent teacher in both her teaching skills, children skills, along with a deep knowledge of her subject matter. Her enthusiasm and involvement will be a great asset for the community she works in.

Tara Ramaseshan
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