

February 27, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ruth Canji. I first met Ms. Canji in September, 2009 when she was appointed to teach my daughter's 3rd grade class at Orrington Elementary School in Evanston, Illinois. Ms. Canji is a compassionate and kind person and a talented teacher.

My family and I moved to Evanston last summer after living overseas for many years. We knew this would be a big adjustment for my daughter so it was important to us that she be placed with a nurturing and caring teacher. During the second week of school, we learned that her teacher would be taking an extended leave of absence. That is when Ms. Canji was assigned to teach the class. The transition that occurred was seamless, as Ms. Canji continued to build on the routines that were already in place, allowing her students to feel safe and comfortable. In addition to making students feel at ease, Ms. Canji made it a priority to keep parents informed of what was going on in the classroom. We looked forward each week to her newsletters explaining what the students were working on and how we could help them at home. I personally had an on-going conversation with Ms. Canji about my daughter's progress, via frequent e-mails and playground contact. I greatly appreciate her openness and willingness to be reached whenever the need arose.

As a classroom teacher myself, I recognize in Ms. Canji the qualities of a dedicated and hard-working teacher. She worked closely with the other third grade teachers to make sure that the students were keeping up with the curriculum during their regular teacher's absence. She inspired in them a love of reading and literature. On several occasions, I was able to visit the classroom to witness firsthand her enthusiasm and to see how the children loved working with her. I had the opportunity to chaperone a field trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo and was impressed by Ms. Canji's organization and attention to her students during this trip.

Recently, my daughter's regular classroom teacher returned from her leave of absence. While the children were happy to have their teacher return, they were saddened to say good-bye to Ms. Canji. To their delight, they still see Ms. Canji on a daily basis, as she is the permanent building substitute teacher at Orrington Elementary School this year. On several occasions I have seen students run to Ms. Canji for hugs when they see her in the hall or at school events. Such was the extent of her impact on these children.

Without hesitation, I recommend Ms. Canji for a teaching position. Any school would be lucky to hire such a dedicated, compassionate and talented teacher. Please feel free to call or e-mail me for further information.

Sincerely,
Amy Clerides