

March 1, 2010

To Whom it May Concern,

I have had numerous opportunities to meet with Ruth Canji earlier this year when she was my third grade daughter's teacher. Both my daughter and I loved getting to know Ms. Canji. What most impressed me about Ms. Canji was that she always gave me her full attention when I talked to her. She would put down her box of stuff and give me the feeling that my conversation was of the utmost importance. Often I was just airing out parental anxieties that were probably not of the utmost importance at that moment, but talking with Ms. Canji helped me a lot. Her advice was always grounded and positive. I admired how she could have this amount of personal energy for parents when she, along with being a mom herself, is also the teacher for many students who also want to talk to her.

When I spent time in the classroom and on a field trip, I could see that she was also this personally engaged whenever she interacted with her students. My daughter and her friends really loved Ms. Canji and were genuinely sad when she left to help other classrooms. I felt this was because Ms. Canji gave them a personal kind of attention that is rare in today's busy times. I've seen teachers respond to children as the teachers walked about their way or turned their back on the student to attend to another task; but I have never seen Ms. Canji talk to her students without full facial connection and completion of the conversation. I have seen this attentiveness work for her when she is both teaching students and when she's controlling the few who are misbehaving. I felt she had a good base of mutual respect with her students that enabled her to move the class forward with relative ease.

My daughter and I really enjoyed having Ms. Canji in our lives for that short time earlier this school year. In my opinion, she would be quite an asset to every school that is lucky enough to have her. Feel free to discuss this with me further if you need.

Sincerely,

Indre Rackauskas MD