

March 2, 2010

To Whom it May Concern,

I first met Ms. Canji when she was substituting in my son Peter's 3rd grade classroom. Due to a death in his classroom teacher's family, Ms. Canji came in as a long-term substitute. Because the death came so soon after the year began, Peter's class had not had time to coalesce as a group.

Ms. Canji was able to step in, and in a very organized, orderly way, get the class going again. She kept parents informed with weekly updates about the classroom and curriculum. The students felt at ease and immediately picked up with lessons. When I had questions about my son's reading ability, she was very approachable and reassuring. The classroom teacher eased back into a full-time schedule slowly, and Ms. Canji was able to coordinate and communicate with everyone to make this transition as smooth as possible.

My son Peter has spoken very highly of Ms. Canji. She is a particular favorite of his, most likely because she is able to listen to and interact with kids with true interest in what they have to express. She is able to harness their energy to get them motivated to work hard and keep on track.

Since I volunteer weekly in my younger son's classroom, I have also had a chance to see Ms. Canji at work in the Kindergarten as well. She is a calm, cheerful presence in that setting and seems to truly enjoy herself.

I am very glad that she has been our building sub this year at Orrington Elementary, especially in my third grader's classroom. Third grade is an important year and my son's class is in a position to do well on their ISATs later this month, in part because of Ms. Canji.

I'm sorry that Orrington does not have a full time position to offer Ms. Canji next year. I think she definitely deserves her own classroom and her new school will be lucky to have her. If you would like to contact me regarding my experience with Ms. Canji during this school year, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Patti Montgomery