



ÉCOLE OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIES

June 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Teresa Cowan. I had the opportunity to work with Teresa while she was volunteering at École Our Lady of the Prairies Elementary School from October 2019 - January 2020. I worked alongside Teresa in my role as Learning Coach, as we shared the responsibilities of working with students who were struggling in the classroom and were identified as students who would benefit from out of the classroom-small group literacy intervention.

During her time at Our Lady of the Prairies, Teresa assumed the responsibilities of running reading groups with our most vulnerable students. Teresa was magnificent when supporting our struggling readers who were working between 1 and 3 grade levels below their current placement. She observed several Leveled Literacy Intervention lessons and quickly jumped in as lead teacher. Teresa has a welcoming personality that allowed her to connect with her students immediately. She successfully used the Leveled Literacy Intervention resource and also supplemented her lessons by personalizing activities based on her students' interests.

Teresa did a brilliant job of earning the trust of her students as she built a rapport of trust with each of them. One student in particular was placed with her as I was unable to get "buy in" with him. Quite honestly, Teresa had a beautiful way with all of her students and in particular this boy. She connected with him in a way that I had not witnessed before and together they worked diligently to improve his reading and writing skills. Perhaps even more important than the progress that was made, was the fact that I saw this little Grade 4 boy light up and smile when he saw Teresa. I was very impressed that she managed to meet his social emotional needs while teaching him literacy skills; it was very moving. I was often in awe of Teresa when she worked with her various groups of children. Each lesson began as the students trickled in one by one and she was genuinely happy to see them and to catch up by asking personal questions.

Teresa was dedicated and thoughtful as she planned her time with the students. She always stayed after her last group to tidy, plan and prepare for her next day lessons. She arrived early each morning so that she could settle in, check in with me and set everything out for her students. Teresa often asked me questions, always pushing herself to do more, and to learn. She was a student herself who, despite doing an incredible job with her groups, was demanding more of herself. I was able to witness firsthand how seamlessly Teresa was able to differentiate her instruction to meet the needs of her students. She took the time to plan lessons which were motivating, engaging and interactive for students. She also had a strong presence while teaching and skillfully kept the kids on track; always remaining calm, engaging and respectful. As a beginning teacher, Teresa far exceeded all of my expectations as she masterfully worked



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with her students who had many challenging needs. Teresa constantly strived to be the best teacher she could be and readily accepted feedback and immediately implemented any suggestions offered. She was truly a student herself who wanted to continue learning and improving her craft.

It was a true blessing having the opportunity to work alongside Teresa. On a personal note, I thoroughly enjoyed having the chance to share a classroom space with Teresa for 4 months. She is a positive person who made connections with everyone she worked with. Her kind heart, calm demeanor and positive outlook was always inspirational. I will look back on my time with Teresa with much gratitude as she was an integral part of our student's success and she was a valuable asset to our school team.

Sincerely,

Candice Doucet
Learning Coach

