

October 15, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of appreciation regarding the visit that we received from Moses (Amik) Beaver, with the aid of funding through the Ontario Arts Council. Moses instructed two intermediate classes during the week of October 6 to 10 at Caledonia Centennial Public School, in Caledonia. During his visit the students created sculptured masks as well as mosaic murals. Both are wonderful keepsakes of this experience.

It was a very special week to say the least. Moses is a pleasure to work with. His easy going nature has a calming effect on everyone. He has a way of knowing how to redirect the students in a positive way. His demeanour is infectious and we'll miss him. Our pupils responded to him with admiration and respect and many have already said that they will forever remember his visit. Watching him work through the process is just as fascinating and incredible as the finished product. Here are several excerpts from the students' reflections on his visit:

- *Moses is absolutely amazing at art. Moses can sculpt different things very well and very fast. He is a great help to us and gives us tips to improve our work. Moses is a great person to have come to our school and I will definitely remember this for the rest of my life.*
- *Near the end of the time we had him he drew pictures of some people and made them look funny. Moses showed us flutes that he had hand-carved out of wood and he played songs so we could guess what he was playing.*
- *When Mr. Amik came to our school I was happy to try something new because I have never really liked art. When Mr. Amik came he taught me that art is fun. He was really calm with us and helped the people who needed it. I really liked that when we got to make plaster masks we actually moulded them to our face with plaster of paris and Vaseline. Moses read us stories and played songs on his flute.*
- *One of my passions that I do in my spare time is art. Although I do different types of art then what we have been doing with Moses, I feel I have gained a lot of experience that I can go and put into my drawings and my own masterpieces. Moses has taught us that anything can be a masterpiece. He taught us that you may think you made a mistake on your art, but you truly didn't. That mistake can make the whole masterpiece better. The time that I have spent with Moses was truly an amazing time.*
- *Moses Beaver was excellent. I was away for four out of the five days he was visiting, but the one day I saw him I wished I could have been with him for all of the other lessons. He did great art work with us. His drawings were beautiful! He made all of us laugh and it gave a sparkling energy to the room! He was very encouraging and made everyone feel like a shining star!*
- *Moses is a talented and hardworking person whom I look up to. I hope I have the privilege of being part of his class again.*

- *I believe having Moses come to our school has enriched our artistic senses with his First Nations art.*
- *I enjoyed every second of Moses' visit. I loved the feeling of the plaster on my face. I enjoyed when Moses told us the story behind his painting. Just looking at the painting I didn't really understand, but after Moses told the story, I could see the life in the picture.*

These are just a few of the wonderful things that the grade seven and eight students had to say about their experience.

We would like to reiterate our gratitude for giving Moses his funding which ultimately allowed us to benefit from this talented artist. We look forward to working with Moses in the future as well as other artists.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Gilchrist

Ms. C. Kelly