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March 23, 2010:

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I write this reference for Molly Hamilton, (a.k.a. "Miss Molly") and Anthony Burbidge. Molly and Anthony are currently involved with Eugene Coste School in the capacity of "artists in residence". Molly is a very dynamic person who came to this project with a high level of enthusiasm. She has managed to sustain this level of excitement as she works with staff and students on this project. Anthony is a talented musician who inspires children with his joy for creating and his abilities to put music to their words.

Molly has a very clear vision of her purpose; that is, to promote, through song, a positive outlook and approach to life with the belief that this will transfer into an attitude of love and charity towards others. She also has a very clear vision of the outcomes and process of the work involved in this residency. At Eugene Coste School, Molly and Anthony have been working with classes of children to have them write songs that share the same positive message as her lead track "Make a Wonderful Day." At the end of her residency, each child will have a professionally recorded compact disc featuring eleven original songs written by the students and performed with "Miss Molly".

Molly and Anthony are very engaging. Children respond so well to them as they lead them through a very efficient song writing process. Molly begins these sessions by putting out a question, (i.e., "What makes a great day?") and inviting children to brainstorm ideas. These ideas are grouped while Molly and Anthony teach the children how to work with meter and rhyme to come up with a two verse song and a chorus. Throughout this process, Anthony circulates with his guitar to create the tune. Within roughly a one hour session, Molly and Anthony leave the children with a sample recording and the words to the song that they have just composed. After a couple of weeks to allow practice time for the children, professional recording equipment is brought into the school so that each class can have scheduled recording time with Molly and her musicians. The culmination is a professionally recorded CD.

Our students had the pleasure of enjoying Molly when she captured their hearts during a holiday performance last December. Since that performance, many of our students have been on her website to download some of her songs or they've purchased some of her six CDs. In the meantime, Molly has become more special to our school community by sharing her craft of song writing and her gift of music with our students. Molly has been so keen and professional right from the beginning of this project. She has sought input from staff and students to personalize the work for Eugene Coste School. Her organization and communication skills are first rate. I believe that in the end, the children of our school will benefit greatly from the experience that Molly and Anthony will provide through this residency.

Sincerely:

Deborah Fairhurst