



March 16, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support of BAYFEST. I had the pleasure of working with Robert Shampain and the BAYFEST staff at Cooper Elementary School in Seattle. Cooper School was a highly diverse, challenging urban school. The students had intense emotional and behavioral needs in addition to needing extensive academic supports. The staff and I had been looking for programs and strategies to address these needs. BAYFEST's emphasis on kinesthetic learning and identifying and expressing emotions through drama and movement was a highly effective intervention and support for our students.

Students of all backgrounds and abilities were able to experience success and find alternative ways to demonstrate their learning. Student engagement increased and simultaneously, classroom behavioral issues declined. Using drama helped students succeed and access materials and information that might have been challenging if presented in a traditional manner. Teachers were able to build on the students' increased sense of self-esteem and growing confidence in their own abilities.

Additionally, I found the BAYFEST staff to be highly responsive to teachers and able to work with a variety of personalities and approaches. They were able to collaborate and plan with staff so that existing curriculum was illuminated and extended. Staff was enthused and supportive when they saw the positive impact that BAYFEST had on their students.

Based on my work with them, I highly recommend their program and feel that their work makes an important difference in the lives of children and has the capacity to improve the instructional expertise of teachers. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Johnson", is written over a vertical line that extends from the signature down to the typed name below.

Dr. Anne Johnson
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