



OREGON TRAIL ACADEMY

International World School Primary Years Programme



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Ginger Redlinger, Director Robyn Fry, Director's Secretary

April 4th, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

There are not many times in a principal's career when you see a school completely enthralled, engaged, and elevated through the work of an artist in residence. Ellen Whyte has provided us with just such an experience. While working in our school, students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade worked with Ellen to create lyrics based on what they were studying in class, and she composed music to go along with their words. Ellen also taught them to sing, and how to perform. She helped us plan the final performance as a community event and it brought every family to our school. It was a hit!

The children and families love Ellen, and her work is the highlight of our year.

As a result of her work students are more confident speaking in front of others, and will occasionally break out into song. They have shown a deeper understanding of the content they wrote songs about. When they see Ellen, they rush up to her and give her a hug. "We miss Ellen" is commonly heard in the hallway.

I do not usually use superlatives, but she really is the best artist in residence I have worked with in my twenty-three years in education. If you are looking for someone special for your school, I can offer no higher recommendation than for the work of Ellen Whyte. Did I mention what a wonderful person she is? Your students will notice. And you can't ask for more from a visiting artist. Feel free to contact me if you would like to know more about what she accomplished in our school

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginger Redlinger".

Ginger Redlinger

Director/Principal

Oregon Trail Academy

International Baccalaureate - Primary Years Program