

# Grinnell Elementary School

6 Grinnell Road

Derry, New Hampshire 03038

Ph:603-432-1238 Fx:603-432-8717

www.derry.k12.nh.us/grs/index.htm

**Mary Hill**  
Principal

**Michael Ducharme**  
Assistant Principal

Dear Jeff:

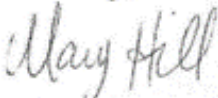
Thank you for bringing CurricuLaughs to Grinnell. This was the best set of programs we have had in a long time and was thoroughly enjoyed by both students and teachers. Our students went back to class and begged their teachers to allow them to write poems!

When the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were returning to their classrooms, they were very animated and I saw the effect their assembly had on them. Getting 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys to leave a poetry program saying this was "AWESOME" is an amazing feat, but you replicated that with each grade level.

Your interactions with the students were so creative, well-planned, engaging and educational that we are asking you to come back and provide an evening program for the Title I families.

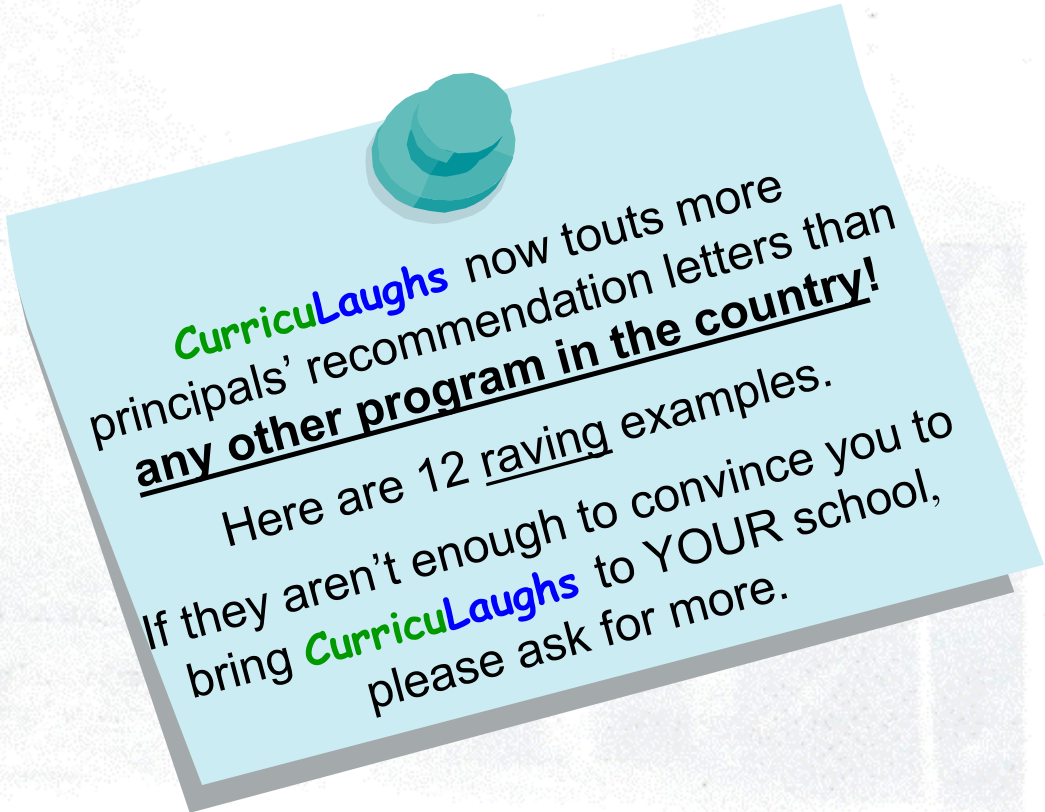
Thank you, again, for educating our students in such an entertaining and informative way.

Sincerely,




Mary Hill

Principal



**CurricuLaughs** now touts more principals' recommendation letters than any other program in the country!

Here are 12 raving examples. If they aren't enough to convince you to bring **CurricuLaughs** to YOUR school, please ask for more.



**St. Mary's**  
**Primary School**  
*Shining in Catholic Education*

106 Washington Street  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Telephone 508-822-9480  
Fax 508-822-7164  
www.stmarystaunton.com

November 21, 2011

Jeff Nathan  
27 Brown St.  
Andover, MA 01810

Dear Jeff:

The students were out of their minds! They thought your visit was the best thing they had ever experienced. From the little kids to the fifth graders, they thoroughly enjoyed their sessions. The way the programs were tailored to the age and maturity level of your audiences had them fully engaged. With some other presenters, it's one-size-fits-all and that makes it hard to keep everyone on the same page. You were doing very different things with every grade level grouping. You had such great control of each of your audiences.

A key to your success was your energy and enthusiasm and the way you were so fluid in your presentations. You are definitely what makes this program live.

It was amazing to me that you were able to tie in the adjectives, adverbs, similes, metaphors, etc., into songs, making the students think they were just having fun and yet the academic piece was connected so well. Poetry is also an important part of the language arts curriculum. Sometimes teachers shy away from it because they are not comfortable. Your poetry portion was so helpful. When we look at making children enjoy poetry, it has to be something that they can relate to. In talking to our teachers, the reason they were so excited about bringing you in was the poetry side. It wasn't a play or a science program, which come through here more frequently.

The teachers thought that the program was awesome! We actually had four teachers come back for your evening program because they enjoyed the daytime so much. They thought you made poetry come alive and that is so important. Relating the singing of poetry is in synch with what the kids do today. They learn so many songs because they are singing them. Relating that to poetry was just incredible.

So, on behalf of the St. Mary's Primary School Community, I would like to thank you for the lively, enthusiastic, interactive presentations you provided for us and I am very anxious to get you back here whenever we can.

Sincerely,



Assistant Principal



# WAKEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

WOODVILLE SCHOOL  
30 FARM STREET  
WAKEFIELD, MA 01880  
(781) 246-6469

[middleton-cox@wakefield.k12.ma.us](mailto:middleton-cox@wakefield.k12.ma.us)

**Brian Middleton-Cox**  
Principal

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for sharing your very clever and thoughtful CurricuLaughs sessions with us. This was the most worthwhile set of programs I have ever brought to Woodville Elementary.

.....

The kids' faces said it all. They were smiling and laughing along and absolutely loved what they experienced. They told me they thought you were very, very funny. The teachers were just as thrilled with the educational side. I received comments about how they loved the pace—it moved quickly but not too quickly—it was engaging, you succinctly hit home your major points, and they also enjoyed the costume changes and different personas.

What I appreciated the most was how you related everything to the Massachusetts frameworks. Each assembly was tailored directly to that grade-level's curriculum and that's what I look for when I try to get someone into the school. All too often, the performances that I see do not link up with the grade-level curriculum and the fact that this did, in addition to being incredibly entertaining, was really great. I also liked the visual support you provided for your auditory messaging. The kids need that and it was very well put together.

Thank you, again, for a wonderful visit. Please feel free to use me as a reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian Middleton-Cox'.

Brian Middleton-Cox  
Woodville Elementary Principal

Woodville School Core Values

Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Cooperation



# Randolph Howell Elementary School

653 Bear Creek Pike  
Columbia, Tennessee 38401  
Phone (931) 540-1032 Fax (931) 540-1034

*Connie P. Brown*  
Principal

*Janyce K. Smith*  
Assistant Principal

February 10, 2011

Sarah Stavelly  
PTA President  
Randolph Howell Elementary School

Dear Sarah:

The teachers, students, and I want to formally thank you for bringing CurricuLaughs to our school. It was one of the most productive, effective, and purposeful set of programs that we have had.

The programs were very teacher-friendly, offering things they could build from, and supported our curriculum very well. The teachers felt that the time away from the classroom was time well spent because it was curriculum-based, while also being lots of fun.

Each program was very age appropriate. The students were engaged throughout their programs and thoroughly enjoyed them. They were learning but didn't realize that they were learning!

Thank you, again, from all of us. We really appreciate your efforts in getting creative and innovative programs like these for Randolph Howell.

Regards,



Connie P. Brown  
Principal

**Mary A. Fisk School**  
**14 Main Street**  
**Salem, NH 03079**  
**Telephone: (603) 893-7051**

**Susan E. Rhodes**  
**Principal**

October 11, 2011

Jeff Nathan  
CurricuLaughs

Dear Jeff:

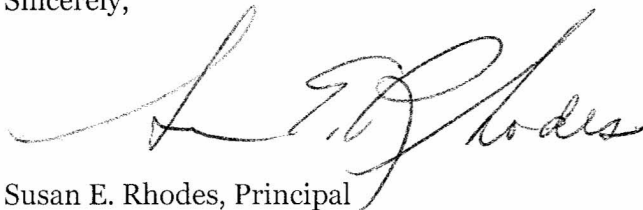
Your presentations were hilarious! They were enjoyed not just by the students, but by the adults, as well. As much as they were, though, the integration of education on poetry and English language arts made for a great way to learn; I don't think the students realized that it was instructional. It was very creative.

The cafeteria where you were presenting was full of laughter the whole day and both students and teachers enjoyed every session. Students left the sessions very happy and talking about the fun all the way back to their classrooms. This was a a great way to integrate education into a fun-filled day.

These programs were also valuable in another way; they provided staff members with creative ideas that they can use to take what is often a dull subject and make it more fun for kids.

Thank you for sharing your humorous, witty programs with us.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Rhodes, Principal

**Benjamin Jepson  
Multiage Magnet School**



15 Lexington Ave.  
New Haven, CT 06513  
Tel. 203-691-2900  
Fax 203-691-2905

*Peggy Pelley, Principal  
Lesley Stancarone, Asst. Principal*

January 31, 2011

Dear Mr. Nathan:

The Jepson community would like to extend a very heartfelt and appreciative "thank you" for your wonderful performance at our school on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This was the best author visit I have seen at the school.

In searching for an appropriate visiting author, we heard such rave reviews from Deer Run, a school you had visited last year, that we had to see what your programs were all about.

The entire school community—teachers, students, parents, and even the custodial staff—raved about your shows, especially your ingenuity and ability to engage children from preschool to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students especially enjoyed hearing about similes, metaphors and alliteration in such a fun atmosphere, so much so that they sat on the hard gym floor for 2 hours without a complaint!!! The 4/5 students were particularly envious of their classmates who got to eat lunch with you. Some of the K-1 students asked their teachers to play the guitar while reading to them to make reading more fun.

In addition, parents and teachers were especially appreciative of your evening performance. Literacy is such an important component of the school-home connection and is emphasized by teachers at Jepson with families.

We really hope you enjoyed your day at Jepson as much as we enjoyed having you here. Thank you, again, for such a great day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lesley Stancarone'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Lesley' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Stancarone'.

Lesley Stancarone  
Vice Principal – Benjamin Jepson School





# Manchester Township Elementary School

101 North Colonial Drive  
Manchester Township, New Jersey 08759

DR. FRANCES SCUDESE  
Principal

ROBERT BITTNER  
Vice Principal  
(732) 323-9600

November 3, 2010

Mrs. Sheryl Claus  
President of PTO  
Manchester Township School District

Dear Sheryl,

*As principal of Manchester Township Elementary School, I would like to thank the PTO for scheduling the visiting author, Jeff Nathan. From the beginning of his presentation till the very end, he had truly engaged the students in his presentation. It is quite a task to actively involve 50 students in each group throughout an entire presentation, but Mr. Nathan did this so well. The children just loved Sherlock Poems and were able to relate the information presented into the everyday classroom lesson. His use of rhyming and puns was very creative which allowed the children to be relaxed yet understand the true meaning of his purpose.*

*As educators, we talk about the curriculum coming alive, with Mr. Nathan presentation it did.*

Sincerely,

*Dr. Scudese*  
Dr. Fran Scudese

# Frederick J. Dutile Elementary

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Patricia A. Tobin  
*Principal*

October 1, 2010

Jeff Nathan  
c/o CurricuLaughs  
27 Brown St.  
Andover, MA 01810

Dear Jeff:

Your CurricuLaughs programs were WONDERFUL!

They were extremely effective, very enjoyable, and spot-on with how children learn. The students couldn't stop talking to me about how much they loved your assemblies. Your humor really caught them and they ran with it; they were continuously repeating your poems.

You have created the best presentation of similes, metaphors, and alliteration for children that I've ever seen. You had movement, it was acted out, there was rhyme and humor, and the students saw your passion. They weren't reading it from a book; they were absorbing the information in a humor-filled environment. You captured three complicated ideas and students left with a really good understanding of what they are all about. When they come to them later, this is what they are going to remember.

It was also very valuable to have the staff there to see the presentations because they are now able to build upon all the key concepts you touched upon. The teachers were surprised at the level of program quality and how much the students enjoyed what they saw. My reading teacher commented on the volume of students who described how much they loved the programs. This was truly a great partnership in education.

Many thanks for the staff and students at the Dutile Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Tobin





The Salem Public Schools  
City of Salem

Mark Higgins, Principal

Witchcraft Heights Elementary School  
markhiggins@salem.k12.ma.us

1 Frederick Street • Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
978-740-1271 Fax (978) 825-3451

September 1, 2010

Dear Jeff:

It is with great pleasure that we are inviting you back to Witchcraft Heights for the third year in a row. This year, however, instead of coming for a day, we'd like you to come for a full week.

You have such great rapport with the students. Even the most reluctant child gets swept up in the excitement of your visits. Your programs have made our students so excited about poetry and literacy that they really enjoy going back to the classroom to continue the work. The key transformation is that it doesn't seem so much like work anymore. Writing a poem isn't the hard task that it might have been but, instead, is something they look forward to.

Because of the unique way in which you present the material, it stays with the students and is ultimately helpful to them when these subjects come up again, both in the classroom and in MCAS testing.

Thank you for continuing to help our students grow and learn. We anxiously await your next visit.

Sincerely

  
Mark Higgins

Mr. Stephen Baroni, Principal  
Clara Barton Elementary School  
[sbaroni@oxps.org](mailto:sbaroni@oxps.org)



25 Depot Road  
Oxford, MA 01540  
Tel: 508.987.6066  
FAX: 508.987.2364

12/08/10

To Whom It May Concern,

Jeff Nathan's program was one of the most engaging, interactive programs that I have been exposed to in my 15 years in education. Throughout the entire program, the students were not only involved and interested, but were captivated by his every move. His use of props and visuals was during the program was certainly an attention getter and he used them wisely to keep the entire audience focused. The content of the program was age appropriate and informative. I would certainly recommend him and will bring his program back to our school in the future.

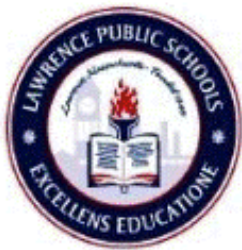
Sincerely,



Stephen A. Baroni

Principal

Clara Barton Elementary School  
Oxford, MA 01540



Gerard A. Guilmette Elementary School \* 80 Bodwell Street \* Lawrence, MA 01841

**Dr. Wilfredo T. Laboy**  
*Superintendent*

**Lori Butterfield**  
*Principal*

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for bringing "CurricuLaughs" to the Guilmette Elementary School. You have reached "superstar" status here at the Super G! Making learning fun is what we strive for every day and you have epitomized that. The students not only talked about your program for months after you left, but infused that enthusiasm into their own writing! The teachers could not believe the positive and lasting effect "Curriculaughs" generated. They have asked me to bring you back every year to "jumpstart" our poetry writing unit.

We have brought many programs into the Guilmette School this year and by far, "Curriculaughs" was the best. Your ability to infuse simile, metaphor, rhyme, rhythm, vocabulary and humor was outstanding. Students from all grade levels and diverse back grounds were able to connect with you and interact in your program. The program could not have been more entertaining. You are a master at what you do and we wish you the best of luck. I highly recommend "Curriculaughs" to any school looking to provide their students with an enriching learning experience that they will never forget!

Gratefully,

Lori Butterfield  
Principal  
Guilmette Elementary School

(Phone) 978-686-8150 \* (Fax) 978-686-6740

Email: [lbutterfield@lawrence.k12.ma.us](mailto:lbutterfield@lawrence.k12.ma.us)



Mount Vernon City School District • W. L. "Tony" Sawyer, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

# PENNINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

20 Fairway • Mount Vernon, New York 10552

914-665-5105 • Fax 914-665-5107



Danielle D. Marrow  
*Principal*

November 23, 2010

Jeff Nathan  
CurricuLaughs  
27 Brown St.  
Andover, MA 01810

Dear Jeff:

I would like to personally thank you for bringing your CurricuLaughs programs to Pennington Elementary. Each session was very engaging for the children but I especially enjoyed the fact that it wasn't just a fun performance; it was a fun ACADEMIC performance and they were actually learning something from their curriculum. The students really got a lot out of it.

Having you for a full day was wonderful because it enabled you to work with small groups and focus on what they needed. This was the best language arts programming that we have had in this format since I've been at this school.

We want programs that truly engage the students and the students loved it. I asked a fifth grader from our student council to rate the performance and she said, "Definitely a 10!"

Thank you, again, for your wonderful visit. We look forward to having you back.

Sincerely yours,

Danielle D. Marrow  
Principal