

# Testimonial

I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Ken through my work as principal at Munroe Junior High School. By the time I was appointed principal at Munroe, Ken and his wife had made the decision to enroll their children at Munroe because of the school's Late Entry French Immersion programme. Ken has consistently shown his central commitment to his family, and deciding on Munroe, a school outside of his school district, reflects his readiness to think courageously and "outside the box" in ensuring the best opportunities for his children.

Not long after I got to know Ken, he demonstrated his leadership qualities in both the school's band parents association and the Parent Advisory Council. When special initiatives were being considered by the school's staff, administration and parent community (for example, a band trip to Edmonton for a prestigious music festival), I learned to trust that Ken would listen carefully to the proposed event, and only then respond with thoughtful questions or insightful suggestions. When, inevitably, these initiatives would call for parents to take on responsibilities or tasks, Ken was always among the first to volunteer, ensuring that his ideas would be supported by his own readiness to roll up his sleeves and get to work. Shortly after our paths crossed, the school's Parent Advisory Council required a new chair. Ken was also very willing to accept the invitation to fill that role.

During Ken's tenure as PAC chair, the school began the process of applying to join the international network of UNESCO Associated Schools, a network of approximately 9000 schools world-wide who commit themselves to work toward a culture of peace, by focusing on peaceful conflict resolution, human rights, education for a sustainable future, and intercultural learning. One of the requirements of UNESCO Schools membership is to be able to demonstrate the support of the parent community. Ken effectively articulated the vision for UNESCO Schools membership to the parents, and ensured that current developments were included on the PAC's monthly agendas. My conversations with Ken during this time were most commonly focused on how we might move this exciting initiative forward. Through Ken's personal efforts, Munroe was selected to host a Free The Children sponsored "Generation Change" day, during which Munroe's students and students from other schools were challenged to "be the change", and trained with skills to become change agents. What a great example of Ken's capacity to support vision with action.

Sincerely,

Gareth Neufeld- retired principal at Munroe Junior High



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