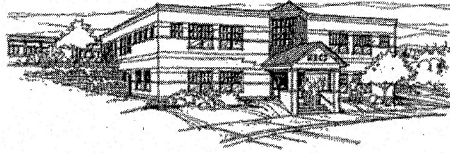


NEW BOSTON CENTRAL SCHOOL  
"A Special Place to Learn and Grow"  
15 Central School Road  
New Boston, New Hampshire 03070



November 15, 2004

To: whom It May Concern:

During the 2003-2004 school year, our school had the pleasure of working with Ron King as our "Artist in Residence." Ron was actually an Architect-in Residence working on the project entitled "Hand In Land," the goal of which was to help the children learn about design and create an artistic plan for the 25 acre landscape surrounding the school.

Although I had a vision of what this would look like, Ron helped the children take this residency to a place I could not have imagined. Ron's time at our school was a source of excitement, inspiration, and fun. He engaged the students, faculty, and community with every aspect of this project. Many of the community volunteers did not have children in the school, but were excited about a project and a process that introduced students to the natural setting which surround the school and helped them use their imaginations to design and build special places that will continue to inspire us all.

The project provided opportunities for interdisciplinary learning that connected to our entire curriculum. As part of the process, the children designed, charted, and built hiking trails, fitness trails, a fairy village, gardens, sitting areas, play structures, and a 35' slide you would not believe!

Ron had an excellent rapport with the students, staff, and volunteers. He communicates clearly, and by asking probing questions he is able to assess long-term benefits and chart directions for extraordinary projects.

Ron was selected for this project based on his talent, community-oriented spirit, creativity, and ability to interact with children. We were *never* disappointed. I recommend Ron King most highly. His residency is part of our playground. As one student put it: "I'm proud of my playground now."

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Matthews". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rick Matthews

## **New Boston Central School**

15 Central School Rd New Boston, NH 03070  
(603) 487-2211

Ron King has asked me to write a letter of recommendation for him, and it is with great pleasure that I do. Ron was our *Architect in Residence* for the 2003-2004 school year. Our project began as an "idea" and with Ron's guidance turned into our Naturalized Play and Learning Center that is open to both the students and the community.

I began meeting with Ron before the school year started. Throughout the summer, we met, talked, and planned the residency along with teachers and community representatives. As the Artist in Residence Coordinator, I am also the grant writer, and I relied on Ron's help with this part of the process, as well. Ron was supportive, helpful, and always available to answer questions and offer advice. As a result, we raised a significant amount of money.

Ron also visited our school prior to the residency, and spoke with teachers, community representatives, and the Student Council. He showed excitement and enthusiasm for our project and a commitment to involving parents and the community outside the school.

When the school year began, Ron introduced the design process and the project goals to the entire student body. Students and staff were active participants in the process throughout the residency. The core group of fourth grade students worked more intensely with Ron, both individually and collaboratively, to achieve the goals of the residency: to create an artistic master plan for the landscape surrounding the school and to implement one part of the plan.

Ron worked with students, staff, and community and brought all of us together with a common goal and an integrated focus. The enthusiasm for this project was unbelievable and it was through Ron's ability to foster the school and community spirit that we were able to accomplish more than was originally planned.

Ron was totally invested in this project. He has a commitment to keeping students creatively engaged in learning through the arts. Ron validated each and every student's ideas and questions. He worked with the same intensity with the staff and the community. Everyone felt that they had an ownership in this project.

Our Naturalized Play and Learning Center was unveiled on June 4 with a community celebration unlike any seen at the school. Over 700 people from the town and school celebrated together the fruits of their labor.

I can't say enough about Ron and all he helped us accomplish here at New Boston Central School. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information. Better yet, stop by New Boston Central School, drive around back, and take a look!



Judy Keefe  
Art Teacher/ Artist in Residence Coordinator  
July 11, 2004