



## Young Hoon Elementary School

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To whom it may concern,

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Young Hoon was founded in 1965 and is the most well-known private immersion elementary school in Korea. The school population is over 760, catering for gr.1 to 6 students. We hire 28 trained teachers from the USA, Canada, NZ, Australia and the United Kingdom. We are an authorized Cambridge Primary School running an inquiry based program delivering outcomes from the Cambridge PECF and ESOL curriculum. We follow the Lucy Calkin's Readers and Writers Workshop model when teaching literacy. Parent expectations are immense and results are expected.

Neva was employed as a full-time grade 3 classroom teacher from March, 2015 to February, 2017. She was required to teach 28-32 students in the subject areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Neva has worked as part of the grade 3 team (four members). Her fulltime teaching load is complicated by a very rigid timetabling situation and extremely high parental expectations.

Neva is an exceptional teacher. She was able to fit into the very challenging situation above by being adaptable, resilient and positive. She develops trust and understanding through a healthy and reflective approach to her peers (Korean and Western), students and administration. She is highly respected by the entire faculty, everyone enjoys her company due to her engaging personality and her willingness to listen and share. She is an excellent role model for both her students and her peers.

Neva has shown the necessary drive to constantly grow her teaching practice as evident through the completion of her Master's program in International Teaching. This was achieved in conjunction with a full-time teaching load which speaks to her excellent organizational skills. At no point did her high classroom standards drop during this intense study period.

Neva uses quality classroom managements strategies built on a foundation of growth mindset, whole brain teaching and most importantly, her ability to inspire. All students are completely aware of the high expectations in place and know that's it fair. She truly embraces 21st Century skill-sets recognizing that a student-centered classroom is the best approach in allowing collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and differentiated learning to occur. In this regard, Neva takes extra time to build quality relationships with all her students. This enables her to reach a variety of student interests and experiences to create 'relevant' lessons that build on prior knowledge. In doing so, she creates a classroom climate where students are consistently engaged, curious, motivated and challenged. They simply enjoy being in her class and love learning. Neva dedicates herself to her students and always goes the extra mile to meet their differentiated needs.

As the grade 3 team leader, Neva has taken on significant extra responsibilities with total professionalism, and has done so during our challenging transition to Reader's and Writer's Workshop. As an active listener, she is able to use a collaborative approach to guide and use the talents of her peers to ensure that shared 'subject' planning was easily understood and the core principals of 'Understanding by Design' followed. She recognizes how critical it is to led by example in keeping team standards high and lessons organized in the mini lesson workshop format.

On two occasions, Neva achieved the highest teacher 'observation appraisal' results in the school. In this regard, she was selected as a mentor teacher for others to observe and follow her practice. Her appraisal videos will be used for many years to come in guiding others to higher standards. Neva was also top of the parent survey results. Parents felt 'truly blessed' to have her as their child's teacher.

Neva gets results. Her emphasis on improving literacy skills was evidence in the significant growth seen in student Fountas and Pinnell reading levels. On average students regularly improved 4-5 levels from the beginning of the year. She also achieved the highest Cambridge International Examinations YLE (Young Learners English) test results in grade 3. 17 of 24 students scored between 9 and 10 shields in the subject areas of: listening, reading and writing.

Neva embraces technology and knows how to use it effectively. She is proficient with smart board and tablet use and a range of educational programs including: Razkids, Reading A to Z, Vocab and Spelling City, LBD, Storybird, and more. She was recently selected to attend the Google Technology Summit in Seoul and underwent training to become a Google Certified Educator Level 1.

Neva also committed herself to weekly and Saturday morning extracurricular classes through our after-school club program. She planned engaging lessons and taught grade 2, 3 and 4 students in the areas of: drama and reading.

A true professional. Neva always met deadlines. She was well presented, punctual and has fulfilled her responsibilities: planning, data collection, reporting, parent conferences, bus and yard duties, school events, PD, and staff meetings.

If you are lucky enough to have Neva applying to your school, I can say with total authority that you should not hesitate to recruit her. You will not regret it. In my seventeen-year career, Neva would be in the top 5 percent of teachers I have worked with. We are very sad to lose her and wish her the very best in NZ.

Yours truly,

Richard Druery

Director

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