

Worcester Central School

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Dear Sondra and John,

The day after you left I wished that you were able to be here for the full week! Unfortunately budgets are tight, and we were so lucky to have the three days with you here at Worcester Central School, which were fantastic! My hope in bringing you both here to share the combination of music, storytelling, art and culture with our students offered so much more than I could have known. The two of you are a wonderful pair and each have a different and magical way with the students. Together, you made your program whole, balanced, and so enriching. Your talents radiated into the hearts and minds of each of our third graders.

It is so important to me that our students have opportunities to be exposed to the many wonders of our world through folktales, art, music, dance, history, literature and theater. Your residency program brought that all here to us in our very small community, opening our eyes to the world we live in and the world that came before us. In the classroom we teach about these things, but there is no comparison to the enrichment brought to us through your talents and experience. Every one of our students was truly brightened, mind, body, and soul, as you say, through this Chinese Celebration of the Arts Program and their participatory roles in "Bawshou and the Dragon". You have an amazing way of touching upon many important learning standards and making it a fun and memorable experience.

Thank you both so much for deepening our students' understanding of Chinese folklore, music, art, and culture. The children responded so positively – each and every one! – about you both personally and about what they have learned through your program. Some of their comments included being thankful to you for, "letting us express our feelings after the performance", "helping us when you taught us how to make dragon masks and lanterns", "letting us play your instruments, especially the gongs and for answering our questions about them", "for letting us be such good actors without being pressured", "making us feel at home by always being calm and happy with us", "really getting to know us in three days and teaching us about Chinese folktales". We will miss you.

Most of all, I thank you for enriching our programs and our lives through your generous nature and rich knowledge. A quote from one of my students reflecting on his observations the day of our performance says everything literally and metaphorically, "Before we started it was raining and hailing out, then when you put the sun back up at the end of our show, the sun was really out again outside". Thank you for bringing the sun:)

Best wishes and we very much hope to have you here with us again!

My heartfelt thanks,

Lynne Gould

WCS Third Grade Teacher and Elementary Reading Program Coordinator