



North Syracuse Central School District

Smith Road Elementary School

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Donna J. Fountain
Principal

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April 16, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am, with great pleasure, writing this letter of recommendation for Heather Turner. I have known Heather for two years in her capacity as a teacher librarian for Smith Road Elementary School in the North Syracuse School District. It is very unfortunate for all of us here that we will be losing Heather due to budgetary concerns. Her talents will be impossible to replace.

When she first came to Smith Road School it was evident she is clearly an outstanding new type of librarian who is extremely helpful to all of her colleagues. She continually offers professional development opportunities to assist us in further developing our own technology skills in addition to those of our students. She has brought all of us into the 21st century and beyond into the vast and multifaceted world of technology. We have experienced virtual field trips to Texas, Florida, our local libraries, and libraries within our district. Students have learned to communicate with "epals," replacing traditional "snail mail pals" and have created movies (biographies, animals, and Dr. Seuss) becoming directors showcasing their excellent creativity and research skills. We created these projects collaboratively offering students the newest technological tools enhancing the current framework of our curriculum.

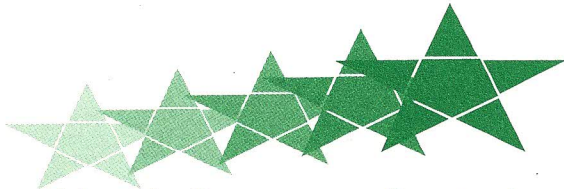
Heather has organized four Scholastic Book Fairs and a school-wide read-a-thon in order to promote the value of literacy and create a love of learning through reading.

Jerome F. Melvin, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Stanley C. Finkle
Assistant Superintendent for
Instruction

Wayne D. Bleau
Assistant Superintendent for
Management

"We're On The Move!"



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In addition, most importantly, Heather, with the assistance of her colleagues, was instrumental in successfully planning Smith Road's first Literacy Night. Staff, parents, students, and community members came together to celebrate the joy of reading. Skip Clark, Christie Casciano, Amy Robbins, Peter Hall, Mark Nicotra, town of Salina Supervisor, Sandy DiBianco, North Syracuse District Board of Education member, Nana Anim, African drummer, John Galloway, SU lacrosse goalie, our own Steve Jones, fourth grade teacher, Crunch Al and Mike Folsom, Syracuse Crunch members, and McGruff, the crime dog, all read their favorite picture book to over 300 of us.

As you can see, we have experienced so many wonderful changes in our library, they are too numerous to mention here. It goes without saying we all will miss Heather and her amazing talents tremendously. If you have any questions or need additional information I can provide, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Karen M. DeSpirito,
Third Grade Teacher,
Smith Road Elementary School
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