

April 13, 2012

Dr. Julie Martel, Principal  
Pacific Beach Middle School  
4676 Ingraham Street  
San Diego, CA 92109

Dear Dr. Martel,

On behalf of the IB, please accept my heartfelt thanks for hosting the delegation from the Malaysian Ministry of Education last month. I apologize for the delay in expressing our gratitude for the welcome you showed us and for sharing the extraordinary work your teachers are doing. I was pleased that they had an opportunity to see your teachers' deep knowledge of IB and the many ways in which they contribute to the IB mission both within the school and as workshop leaders, site visitors, and moderators.

You were able to address several areas that were of particular concern for them. Specifically, it was helpful for the visitors to see the strategies you have used for providing teacher collaboration and reflection time and to hear your honest assessment of the difficulties in having that time reduced. This is a new issue in their system and they needed to hear from practitioners to understand the impact on teaching and learning. I appreciate your taking the extra time to answer their questions and provide additional materials on your scheduling challenges and the solutions you have created. They face very similar challenges in Malaysia. In addition, they were very interested in seeing how you included the students with special needs in your MYP. They were not familiar with the inclusion model and found it very helpful to see it in operation. Most of all, it was eye-opening for them to see the quality of the classroom instruction and the engagement of the students that was evident both from our observations and from the student work displayed throughout the school.

I know how busy the life of a school is and how time-consuming organizing a visit such as this is. We are so grateful to you for allowing us to bring our visitors to see the exceptional program you have created. Many thanks to Jenny for organizing all the details including the special meal requests of our guests in the midst of a very busy week. And special thanks to you and Ms Merino for taking time out of your busy days to welcome our visitors.

Gratefully yours,

*E. Albright*

Erin McVadon Albright

Cc : Mitzi Merino  
Jennifer Sims