



Mayfield Secondary School
Academics, Arts, Athletics, Citizenship

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Wednesday September 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Marilyn Byers and her association with PFLAG. Marilyn's expert knowledge and extensive experience as an educator, a consultant, and, most recently, as an advocate, have made her an exceptional guest speaker who has repeatedly enhanced our classroom discussion on the topics of equality and discrimination.

Marilyn is very approachable. She has a delightful sense of humour that has endeared her to the students attending Mayfield. She is respectful of divergent opinions. Marilyn encourages open and honest dialogue, inviting students to challenge assumptions and discriminatory behaviour. She is most adept in her ability to skillfully facilitate discussions on sensitive and controversial issues affecting LGBT youth. Ms. Byers workshops are consistent with the Peel Board of Education's initiatives, "Managing and Encouraging Respectful Environments" and "The Future We Want", which raise awareness and challenge students to tackle the "isms" of discrimination. It is our goal at Mayfield Secondary School to foster a caring, learning community based on inclusivity, equality and respect. Marilyn's presentations have contributed to creating a safe environment for all students.

It is with my highest regards and utmost confidence that I recommend Ms. Byers as a guest speaker for your students.

Respectfully,

J. Thornton, OCT, Hons BA, BEd, MEd,
History & Geography Department
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