

Kensington Elementary
8701 Kensington Drive
Waxhaw, North Carolina 28173
(704)290-1500

To Whom It May Concern:

Mrs. Bonita Somers recently visited my school in Waxhaw, North Carolina. She is a local writer who has written and illustrated a children's book so she came to the school to speak with the students about the writing process. She tailored her instruction to each grade level so the students gained the desired knowledge and understanding of the writing process.

She was at Kensington Elementary for two days and she varied the content and process of learning to create the best learning experience possible. The kindergarten through second graders met with her the first day and they loved the engaging discussion that she was able to have with them and the activities that she planned for each grade level. As she met the second day with the third, fourth and fifth graders, she was able to differentiate the lessons for each group so they had a different experience while meeting with her. She was patient when answering questions from kindergarteners to fifth graders. She was able to go into more detail about the writing process with the older students during the second day with them.

The students loved her outfit that she wore which corresponded with the character from her book. The younger students, in particular, enjoyed the interactive reading that she did with them about colors. She obviously understood that students learn in a variety of ways and she involved the student as she talked to them about the process she went through to write and illustrate her book.

Kensington is anxiously awaiting a second novel and visit from Mrs. Somers so that the students can continue discussing the writing process with her.

Sincerely,
Susan Williams
Assistant Principal

Jill Long
Art Adventures
3117 Delamere Drive
Matthews, NC 28104

March 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I have operated after school art enrichment programs for the past five years. For the 2013-14 school year, I had the pleasure of employing Bonita Somers as an art instructor and summer camp counselor. Although the position was very part time, Bonita was fully engaged, ensuring that her students had the best experience possible.

Bonita has a passion for art and for teaching, which came through in the after school classes and camps. When I had the privilege of reading her book, Mrs. B's Art on a Cart, I instantly saw that Bonita IS Mrs. B.

She is organized, passionate, accommodating, very easy to work with and most importantly, keeps the kids engaged and excited about art while teaching them the principles of art and a few life lessons along the way. I observed her teach on many occasions throughout the school year. During her time with me, she worked very well with groups of children both large (more than 50) and small, and managed to give students one on one attention when needed. She was able to focus kids on the concept being learned that day - always making it fun - and redirect students when necessary in a kind and caring manner, always with a positive attitude and a smile. She made the job look easy.

The students of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system would truly benefit by Bonita's expertise and passion for art and her ability to bring that passion to the students.

Please feel free to contact me at 704-774-3017 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jill Long
Art Adventures
jlong@artadventuresnc.org

February 18, 2015

To whom it may concern:

This letter is intended to highly recommend Bonita Somers as a visiting author. Ms. Somers recently visited Bascomb Elementary School in Woodstock, Georgia, in October of 2014. She met with six fifth grade classes which constituted the entire fifth grade student population (regular, gifted, and special education students). Her presentation was customized to address fifth grade Reading and Language Arts Common Core Standards. Because all learning modalities—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic—were utilized, students were highly engaged.

Ms. Somers is a rare find—educationally sound and entertaining. Her willingness to incorporate specific grade level needs is an added bonus. She provides each teacher with a pre-visit checklist which enables every student the necessary background information to get the most out her visit.

Bascomb Elementary is planning on Ms. Somers's visit to be an annual event.

Sincerely,

Bettina Miller

Teacher, Masters in Curriculum and Instruction
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Woodstock, GA 30189
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