

To whom it may concern,

For two years at Canadian International School in Singapore I worked as a PYP Homeroom teacher under the direct guidance and leadership of Anna-Marie McAleer who was my Vice Principal. It was an absolute pleasure to work with Anna-Marie and I learned a tremendous amount about exceptional leadership while working with her. I always try to use these lessons in my own leadership role.

Anna-Marie is a very experienced, knowledgeable and passionate internationally-minded educator. Her understanding of pedagogy, curriculum and a holistic approach to education is incredible. Her depth of curriculum knowledge provides her with a tremendous foundation of credible understanding which she is always able to utilize whether she is coaching teachers or making student centered decisions.

Anna-Marie models and embodies great leadership attributes of determination, mindfulness, fairness and support. She has exceptional interpersonal and thinking skills. She listens open-mindedly, offers her opinions and experience wholeheartedly and engages professionally with appreciation and humility. This is why she has the trust and loyalty of the people she works with. She is also an extremely hard working leader which earns great respect from all of her colleagues. Anna-Marie always has an open door, and always finds time to support and listen with empathy and understanding to the needs of her colleagues. Be it about something personal, the curriculum or the wellbeing of a student.

Anna-Marie leads with strong principles of integrity and respect for professionalism. She is very organised, responds to emails in a timely manner, is highly efficient but always pays extra attention to detail. She is a highly experienced classroom teacher, which shines through as a leader because she is always mindful of how her decisions impact the learning environment for both students and teachers. Consequently, she is very attentive to make well-reasoned decisions and is intuitively aware of how her decisions make people feel. She grounds her decisions in research, and deliberation, and finds her authoritative voice so naturally. She actively seeks to empower and stimulate the agency inside everyone. After a conversation with Anna-Marie you always seem to walk away feeling inspired and motivated.

Anna-Marie offers so much as an educator and a leader but she is also just a really lovely, fun, thoughtful and kind person. She brings herself to school, sharing her life and her passions with pride. She tears-up during student presentations, could probably run a marathon in a dress with high heels and enjoys a beer after work with her colleagues. I would work again with Anna-Marie in the blink of an eye and I feel that all those who have worked with her would agree with me.

Isaac Driver

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IB Workshop Leader and Site Visitor