



RL Clemitson

5990 Todd Road, Kamloops, BC

Office: (250) 573-3227

February 25, 2023

RE: Reference letter for **Ms. Barkha Dhanju**

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Barkha Dhanju has been a teacher candidate completing her long practicum in one of our Grade Two classrooms during the 2022-2023 school year as part of the Thompson Rivers University Education program. Part of my role as a vice principal includes a teaching assignment in the classroom where Ms. Dhanju has been doing her practicum.. It has been my pleasure to work closely with Ms. Dhanju on Mondays. I have had the opportunity to observe her regularly and in a variety of areas.

Ms. Dhanju had the opportunity to plan a variety of lessons for the Grade Two students in the areas of Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Career Education, Physical and Health Education, Arts Education and Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies. Ms. Dhanju incorporated the redesigned BC curriculum into all aspects of her teaching.

Ms. Dhanju successfully demonstrated her awareness of the different learning styles within the classroom. She invested a great deal of time, effort, and creativity into her lesson planning in order to reach all types of learners, be it auditory, visual, or kinesthetic. During the various times I observed Ms. Dhanju in the classroom, both formally and informally, students were engaged in the lessons. Ms. Dhanju made sure to circulate the classroom and offer one-on-one support or small group instruction as needed.

Ms. Dhanju has excellent classroom management skills. She employs a variety of strategies to prompt students to remain engaged such as changing the level/tone of her voice, using a chime to refocus the classroom, incorporating class-wide incentives (earning marbles) towards a common goal, and including a visual timer to help with transitions between activities. Ms. Dhanju also employed various phrases to redirect students to the task at hand. She also invested time in addressing student concerns in a timely and discrete manner, which helped to maintain a cooperative classroom environment. Ms. Dhanju was consistent in following the classroom routines and behaviour programs established by the classroom teacher.

Ms. Dhanju has demonstrated her desire to do the best job possible. She created detailed lesson plans which incorporated specifics on differentiated instruction and universal design for learning. Ms. Dahnju utilized accurate assessments of student abilities and planned individualized supports as required. She has also shown initiative for supporting activities that go beyond the classroom such as the Kindness tree and volunteering to help with Battle of the Books weekly during her lunch hour. Ms. Dhanju is currently leading her students through a 100 Acts of Kindness activity during the month of February. She also planned a variety of centers for 100 Day where students could explore number sense in differentiated ways. She encouraged students to dress up as if they were 100 years old, and the students were excited to see Ms. Dhanju participate in this as well.





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Ms. Dhanju possesses a positive disposition and calm demeanour at all times. She has a great rapport with the students and was always ready with a kind word or smile. Ms. Dhanju is very dependable, professional and articulate, and has been valued as a teaching member of the RLC team. It was evident to see through her detailed planning that she spent many hours in the preparation of creative and unique lessons for her students.

Ms. Dhanju immersed herself in the practicum experience at RLC Elementary. She organized a class field trip to the Big Little Science Centre which included a great deal of planning and paperwork. The field trip complemented the Science curriculum through opportunities for hands-on, inquiry-based learning.

Ms. Dhanju fully participated in our bi-monthly staff meetings, teacher planning sessions, scheduled supervision duties, and professional development opportunities. Ms. Dhanju also created student progress reports which provided an assessment of student achievement and work habits during her practicum. She was also instrumental in supporting various school events (Anti-Bullying Day, 100 Day, Valentine's Day) and field trips (Salmon Run and numerous skating excursions). She was always approachable and offered to help in any way possible. Ms. Dhanju also displayed flexibility in the last-minute scheduling changes that often occur within an education setting. In particular, she was very patient with me as I was busy with Admin tasks during most non-instructional times, and I appreciated how confident she was to take the lead on so many things during our Mondays together.

I recommend Ms. Barkha Dhanju as a strong candidate for any teaching position in an Elementary school. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at jleggett@sd73.bc.ca or phone at (250) 573-3227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Leggett'.

Joanne Leggett
Vice Principal

