

Seoul International School

Excellence in Global Education

Songpa PO Box 47, Seoul, Korea 138-600 Telephone: 233 4551/2

Fax: (342)759 5133

Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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Letter of Open Reference for Suzanne Russell

It has been my pleasure to have known and worked with Sue Russell for the past five years, as her direct supervisor. Ms Russell is an extremely professional woman, setting very high standards of conduct for herself and her students. During her six years at SIS (July 1992–July 1998) she has taught PE from grades JK (3 years) – 12, Language Arts and Social Studies in the Middle School (English, History and Geography) and, also, was as the JK-12 administrator, Director of Athletics and Activities. This is her current position. As the school grew, Sue wasn't able to continue teaching and became Director of Aths/Acts full time.

Sue's classroom presentation is excellent, and she uses a variety of techniques to motivate and maintain interest in her subjects. Concepts are presented clearly, and broken down to the smallest place, ensuring even our three year old students can understand instructions and perform successfully. We operate a block schedule, meaning in the Middle and High School Sue has been required to run classes of ninety minutes, and she has done well to keep in touch with her students' need for rest and activity. When we needed the entire PE and Health curriculum rewritten prior to a WASC visit, we consulted Sue, and paid her a consultancy fee over summer for doing this work. Put succinctly, she is a very good teacher, and has the potential to be an outstanding administrator.

Outside the classroom, Sue, despite her time consuming workload, has always coached the best our school has to offer in soccer, tennis, volleyball and basketball. She is, according to her athletes, a sympathetic, organized, humorous, dedicated and brilliant coach. The high school students also directly attribute her morning 'sports report' to an increase in school morale and pep. When I look at her working, knowing she loves her job, despite its volatility and time consuming nature, I feel sad she will not be here next year. I know the students will truly miss her, from our little athletes out on Saturday morning, to the Grade 12s still working on volleyball strategies into the night. She will be missed on a wider base by KAIAC, where she has been instrumental in policy writing, Far East Sport circuits, and the Pacific Region *Stars and Stripes*, where she acted as the Korean Sports 'Ghost Writer.'

Seoul International School is an overseas school primarily preparing Korean students with foreign passports and expatriate students for entrance into American and international universities. Although the curriculum is American, the majority of our students are not native English speakers; hence an important component of our program is language development. In this multicultural setting Ms Russell has worked effectively with students, parents, colleagues and administrators. In fact, as an administrator, Sue has formed part of an important team of people; the administrative team. At weekly meetings she made some poignant points, and was always the first to see humour in something when the rest of us were bogged down. Essentially, she is fun to work with, and has an outstanding memory and work ethic. Sue has made Korea her second home, and this was best represented last year when she and her husband adopted a three week old Korean baby.

I fully recommend Ms Russell to you, as a teacher or an administrator. I am confident she will make a significant contribution to your school. Sue is truly an international person, with a rich background and global perspective. She is a dynamic individual with tremendous potential.

Sincerely,

Francelle Grisham

EMAILED REFERENCE: Please feel free to email me for further information Francelle2112@aol.com