



Cummer Valley M.S.

70 Maxome Ave.
North York, Ontario
M2M 3K1
Tel: 416-395-2260
Principal: Domenic Giorgi

Fax: 416-395-4484
Vice-Principal: Sherran Coyle



February 6, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Edith George

It is my pleasure to write this reference letter for Edith George. The students of Cummer Valley MS had the pleasure of hearing from Edith a few times last school year (2011-12). She presented to our Grade 7 students about Heritage Trees.

While many Grade 7 students find it difficult to listen to presentations and can be restless, our 200 students were quite connected with Edith's presentation. They liked the slide show that moved at a quick pace and had surprising sound effects throughout it. Student were particularly attentive when Edith explained the report card system that allowed a tree to be evaluated prior to being identified and protected as a heritage tree.

Edith brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to her presentations. She is enthusiastic about saving trees. The links she can draw between trees and history are wonderful and tie in very well to both the Life Sciences unit in Grade 7 and to the Grade 7 History program.

Edith is a wonderful resource for the TDSB and has also been able to link our ECO schools initiatives to many other resources available in the city. Her support has helped our school get a tree nursery.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. Giorgi
Principal



Principal among nation's best

TIM FORAN

January 13, 2011

A teacher at 23, married at 25, and a school principal at 35 - Domenic Giorgi has done most everything at a young age.

He can add another accomplishment to his short life.

The 41-year-old head of Newtonbrook's Cummer Valley Middle School has been named one of Canada's top principals for 2011 by national charity The Learning Partnership.

"(I'm) a little overwhelmed, a little embarrassed but also a little proud," said Giorgi, who has been principal of Cummer Valley since 2005 after serving as vice-principal for a combined four years at nearby McKee and R.J. Lang elementary schools.

Giorgi is one of 30 individuals from across Canada to receive this year's Canada's Outstanding Principal award, all of whom will be

feted at a gala dinner in downtown Toronto on Tuesday, Feb. 8. The accolade honours those who have made a difference in the lives of their students and communities.

Giorgi was quick to credit Cummer Valley staff for his own success, especially his office administrator, Sue Gaston, "who pretty much runs my life."

However, he admitted taking some pride in the culture that has been developed at Cummer Valley. "(It's) very healthy, very dynamic, students have leadership opportunities, (and we) engage parents," he described.

The list of school accomplishments during Giorgi's tenure is long.

Cummer Valley has become an Eat Smart school. It offers free breakfasts, has a dietitian to consult with cooks, and only serves the greasy favourite of students, french fries, once a week.

The almost 600 students and staff have also helped their daytime home achieve Eco-School Platinum status, a distinction conferred based on a school's efforts to reduce waste, conserve energy, make the property greener and promote ecological literacy.

The school has also tried to integrate wireless technology into its math and science programs, said Giorgi.

However, it is perhaps Cummer Valley's success at integrating large numbers of immigrants into its student body that is more notable.



North York principal among nation's best. Domenic Giorgi is the principal at Cummer Valley Middle School. *Photo/TDSB*



Annette Street Library,
145 Annette Street,
Toronto, M6P 1P3

November 17, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

Recently I had the distinct pleasure of inviting Edith George to the Library to give her presentation "Heritage Tree - Preserving Our Natural Roots" to several grade 8 classes from local schools.

Edith came well-prepared with an informative and engaging presentation about a tree whose roots and branches are intertwined with Canadian history. The presentation is specifically designed to fit with the grade 8 history curriculum. Edith is highly computer literate, and has created a power-point presentation full of humorous bells and whistles that easily kept the audience's attention.

I was fascinated to learn about this tree and its' role as a marker of the historic Toronto Carrying Place Trail. Individuals such as Etienne Brule, Father Jean Brebeuf and Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe used this historic First Nations route.

Edith involved students in the presentation and made it real for them – for example, having them carry a heavy knapsack and then telling them the early explorers would have been carrying three times that weight.

The students came away with a deeper knowledge of Canadian history and the importance of heritage trees. They also came away with a deeper appreciation of trees in general, and their importance for life on Earth.

Edith is to be applauded for her knowledge of heritage trees; her passion and enthusiasm is contagious. I highly recommend her as a presenter.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you need further information.

Sincerely,
Pam Mountain
Branch Head, Annette Street Library,
pmountain@torontopubliclibrary.ca
416-393-7521

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Mountain". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the printed name and contact information.

Annette Street Branch

145 Annette St., Toronto, ON M6P 1P3
416-393-7692



**Georgetown District High School
70 Guelph Street
Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 2Z5**

January 9, 2015

Dear Edith:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your presentation to our students. Your passion for history and heritage trees was evident throughout your talk. You provided a unique perspective on how to view human interaction with natural surroundings.

The interactive nature of your presentation engaged the students and helped reinforce the need to be responsible about preserving our natural history and the trees which represent it. Your passion for this subject is infectious and transferred quickly to the audience.

It was an honour to meet your father, Mr. Christie George. As a WWII war veteran, he brings another important perspective to the need to appreciate our heritage and the sacrifices many have made in order for us to have the opportunities we do. This complimented the *thrust* of your presentation that many factors, human and natural need to be respected and preserved in order to avoid the destruction that so often occurs when these are ignored.

Thank you again for taking the time to come to Georgetown District High School. The students in my Grade 11 Environmental Science and Mr. O'Neil's Grade 12 Environmental Geography classes thoroughly enjoyed your presentation.

With warmest regards,

**Gord Swanson
Science Teacher & Program Lead
Environmental Specialist Highs Skills Major
Georgetown District High School
Georgetown, Ontario**

Tel: (905) 877-6966 Website: www.georgetowndistricthighschool.com

Fax: (905) 873-9689



Cummer Valley Middle School

70 Maxome Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M2M 3K1 • Tel: (416) 395-2260 • Fax: (416) 395-4484

Domenic Giorgi, Principal Sherran Coyle, Vice-Principal

April 13, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

Recently, Cummer Valley Middle School was able to hear Edith George from the Ontario Urban Forest Council present to our Grade Seven students about Heritage Trees. As a teacher with 20 years of experience, I am pleased to recommend her presentation to you.

Grade Seven students sometimes find it difficult to listen to presentations and they can be restless, but our 200 students were quite connected with Ms. George's presentation. They liked the slide show that moved at a quick pace and had surprising sound effects throughout it. Students love nature and enjoy feeling that they have some power to preserve it and this gave them a sense of hope. When Ms. George explained the report card system that allowed a tree to be evaluated prior to being identified and protected as a heritage tree, they were very attentive.

Afterwards, the students came to me unrequested and spoke positively about the presentation. One student even said that it was the best presentation of the year.

I think that you will find Ms. George knowledgeable about her topic and very passionate about saving trees. The links she can draw between trees and history are wonderful and tie in very well to both the Life Sciences unit in Grade Seven and to the Grade Seven History program.

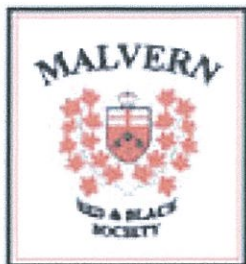
Edith George is a wonderful resource for the Toronto District School Board and has also been able to link me to many other resources available in the city. This has helped us get a tree nursery up and running at the school.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esther Collier".

Esther Collier
(Teacher, Cummer Valley Middle School)



Monday, March 5, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Edith George

I am writing in regards to Ms. Edith Georges' presentation on heritage trees given at the school that I work at Malvern Collegiate on February 29, 2012. It was one of the most engaging and critical presentations that my Grade Nine art class had the opportunity to see. Many students before we went to the presentation were excited about learning about the history of trees, and all left more knowledgeable about how communities are connected to trees.

We were treated to an in-depth look at how a tree becomes a heritage tree in Canada. The presentation brought together history, social science, and art in an engaging presentation which utilized student participation. We also heard from a student attending Malvern, who participated in the local evaluation of a heritage tree.

Using video clips and still photos, Ms. George was able to trace the importance of trees from the indigenous peoples of Canada to the trees importance today.

I believe that many students through the Toronto District School Board could benefit from learning about the local communities and how trees are an integral part of Canadian heritage.

I wish to thank Ms. George for the time that she spent with my students. I spoke to many students afterwards and they expressed their appreciation for the knowledge shared during the presentation. I hope Ms. George continues to educate young Canadians and is supported by educational institutions to encourage environmentalism and respect of Canadian history.

If you have any further questions please contact me at Malvern Collegiate Institute art department.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamil Kalim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamil Kalim
(416) 393-1480