

Alameda Hospital

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To whom it may concern:

I came to Saklan Valley Elementary School largely because of Jonathan Martin. I've met many people that I have admired over the years, yet I can only name a few that have truly and honestly inspired me. His enthusiasm for the school and the kids was powerful and intoxicating. He made me believe that my children would be happy and successful under his leadership and I trusted and believed in him and his school. He championed the ideas of academic excellence, respect for one another, creativity, and inclusiveness and genuinely expressed and ignited these ideas in others.

As an African American, I had some initial concerns regarding this suburban school's commitment to supporting all families, but I quickly came to recognize and appreciate Jonathan's dedication to building a diverse school and community. He spear headed several outreach programs designed to increase diversity in the school and used private resources to educate and train the faculty and parents.

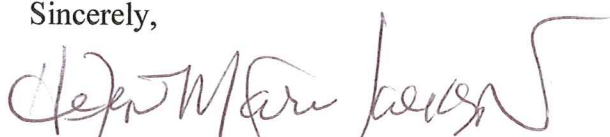
His personal commitment to Saklan's children and their families was also unprecedented. He knew the name of every child, and stood by their parents when life brought sickness or other misfortunes. He was not just the school's headmaster, for me and many others; he was a fountain of hope, understanding and strength.

The school became a powerful network of families, under Jonathan's leadership, where the children were happy and absolutely thrived. One of my daughter's friends, for example, actually wanted to go to school on Saturdays and although my children never expressed that particular sentiment, it was clear that they were very happy and did not want the school day to end. I felt hopeful, about the future and my child's place in the world for the first time.

The guidance and experience that Jonathan brought to the school made learning a magical and wonderful thing. His genuine enthusiasm for the school, love of learning and education was felt by everyone young and old. He is truly an inspiring administrator and a rare and wonderful human being.

Please feel free to call me at anytime if you have any questions (510) 915-2038.

Sincerely,



Helen Maria Jackson, MD, FACEP