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June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Ben Bright - Author and Storyteller.

Ben has spent three full days at Northdale this week. For the first two days, he delivered a 45 minute presentation to all of our students from JK to Grade 8, involving storytelling . These sessions were delivered in the classrooms in blistering heat. Ben expertly managed to keep the students captivated and begging for more at the end of the session. The material used in each session varied according to the grade level and was appropriate and interesting.

On the third day, Ben delivered half-day sessions to our Grade 3 and 6 students. These sessions focussed on the development of a written story using a plan, as well as oral retell. Once again, the students were actively involved in the process and willing to stay after school to hear one more story.

Throughout the sessions, Ben's energy and enthusiasm seemed to have no limit. He provided a warm, supportive atmosphere for the students to develop their skills and re-assured them throughout the process. Clear norms were established at the beginning of each session. The children were eager to write and improve their writing and share their work. Ben expertly raised the levels of excitement in the classroom and still maintained control.

It has truly been a pleasure to have Ben in the school this week. Children are telling and retelling the stories they were told from the youngest of the Kindergarden students to the Grade 8's. His ability to engage and work with all of the students, regardless of their abilities was phenomenal.

I would highly recommend Ben to any school wishing to enage students' interest in literacy and developing the creative story writing and telling process.

Sincerely,

Nicola Bankes  
Principal