

18 May 2017

To Whom It May Concern

We have been fortunate to have Mrs Danell Ricciardella working at Canberra Grammar School since October 2014. During this time, she has played an instrumental role within the school.

In particular, Danell ably assisted the School's Leadership Team in the successful transition from being a school that educated boys to one which now provides a co-education learning environment. Danell's preplanning, reflection and open communication enabled us to readily attend to matters that had not been identified through our strategic change process. Her close attention to the care of individual students and their families matched with the capacity to positively influence and lead colleagues was an incredible asset to the School through the first year of our transition. Danell received due thanks and recognition from the Head of Canberra Grammar School, Dr Justin Garrick, for her leadership in this area.

In a classroom setting Danell is highly regarded by her students and their families. She makes strong, positive connections while also establishing necessary boundaries and expectations to promote a positive class culture. The strength of the relationships she forms have a profoundly positive influence on her students. Danell suitably challenges her students; engaging them in ways that allow them to create personal relevance and connections to new ideas. The students in her class have a strong sense of purpose which guides and motivates them with their learning.

Danell understands that students benefit from close partnerships existing between home and school. Her open style classroom and commitment to effective feedback provides a strong sense of security within the parents of the children she works with. Many have written or made the time to speak with me regarding their disappointment of her departure from our school. Speaking frankly and demonstrating authenticity through her communication has been matched with needed care and sensitivity to the demands that families face.

Danell also provides a powerfully positive impact upon the staff teams she works with. Her knowledge, experience, dedication to continual professional growth and high emotional intelligence have allowed her to become a highly regarded mentor to others in a short period of time. Her guidance and support of other educators will be missed.

I wish Danell all the best for her future school placement and in doing so encourage her to consider applying for roles which will allow her innate leadership to touch and extend beyond the bounds of a singular class setting.

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Head of Primary
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