

Letter of Reference for Wayne Franks

November 5, 2022

Dear Sir/Madame,

I have known Wayne Franks for over 2 decades when he joined Mountainview School in the English Montreal School Board in the capacity as our caretaker. As the head teacher at the school I was his immediate supervisor. Mountainview is a special school for delinquent and behaviourally, academically and socially challenged adolescents and it takes a special type of individual to work there, in any capacity.

Wayne was an excellent caretaker, industrious, independent, conscientious, and dedicated. But his talents greatly exceeded those one would normally associate with a caretaker. He was an excellent painter and contributed greatly to maintaining the building, a very old building, in pristine condition. This was very important in teaching our students the values of order and cleanliness.

Wayne is a gifted musician, truly gifted on the piano. He used his skills to help our students musically and as his background extended to radio and recording, he helped our teaching staff set up and maintain an excellent music room. He is also a historian as his BA degree is in history. As a history teacher, myself, I was often astounded by his knowledge and we used to have some wonderful discussions. He has participated for years in historical recreation events surrounding the American Revolutionary era. As a side job he created and presented some historical presentations to our students and one particular one on the Holocaust was particularly inspiring and moving.

But Wayne's greatest contribution to our program, besides his excellent work as a caretaker, was as a de facto assistant to our woodshop teacher. Mountainview has a WOTP (Work Oriented Training Program) which serves to give students with lower academic skills, or who just are not ready for regular classes, the opportunity to learn work skills and engage in "stages" in exterior work places which could lead to real work. Wayne assisted our teacher in all aspects of the wood shop and was viewed and respected as almost a second teacher. He formulated and maintained an excellent relationship with our students, no easy task, and his impact on our success was immense.

Wayne is a true team player, in all senses of the word. Mountainview was a sports-oriented school and Wayne did his part often participating in our hockey games. He was an integral member of the educational team, as necessary to our success as the childcare staff and the teachers.

Wayne is a truly talented, eclectic person who only needs to find the right fit to display and share his many talents. He will be a true asset to any company or organization or individual fortunate enough to work with him.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me at 450-458-1413, 514-792-8338 or at dolivenstein@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Danny Olivenstein

Head teacher, Mountainview High School