



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Division of Basic Research

UPCI Research Pavilion
5117 Centre Avenue, Suite 2.42e
The Hillman Cancer Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1863

Dear Selection Committee,

This letter recommendation is for an extraordinary teacher, Tobi Admon, of Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh for your prestigious Kohelet Prize. Mrs. Admon has instructed two of my children (one daughter in 1st grade in 2013 and my son who is currently in 2nd grade 2016). As a professional educator, I feel qualified to speak about the improvements and enrichments that Mrs. Admon has brought to the classroom and to our school. Mrs. Admon is a gifted educator who really propelled our children in their Hebrew language and development. In 2013 at the start of first grade, my daughter was unable to speak any Hebrew but left her classroom able to converse and read with fluency and understanding that was truly inspiring to me. She was able to put together simple sentences and to read fluently at our Pesach seder. It was incredible. I think part of her success is her ability to make Hebrew fun for the kids to learn and by giving them vocabulary that they are able to use on a daily basis. Her classroom becomes dynamic and alive for the students. We were ecstatic to find her the teacher this year for our son.

In addition to Mrs. Admon's work in the classroom, she has also been instrumental for implementing a new program in our school where the students are divided into smaller groups based upon skill level. This has enabled students at all levels to receive individual attention. As opposed to teaching to the mean, our school has now been able to divide the classroom into 3 to 4 individual groups and to teach the students in a smaller more intimate setting. In retrospect, this approach seems so obviously better as we take a similar approach in teaching our medical students. However, it was a major change and challenge for our school, especially for teachers who were traditionally taught to stand in front of a classroom. My children have greatly benefited from the small group learning in all classes ranging from kindergarten to four grade. Mrs. Admon was instrumental in bringing this new style of teaching into our school and for its seamless transition into our curriculum.

In summary, Mrs. Admon is a gifted educator that is not only inspirational in the classroom but has profound impact in the way that our school has evolved to teach our students. Personally, I think that Mrs. Admon is likely in the top 1% of educators that I have encountered in the elementary school education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kara Bernstein".

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