

1956



2006

**The Awty International School***Fifty Years of Global Education*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of a colleague, friend, and former student of mine, Jacques Weber. I listed the above reference to him in a specific order. First and foremost he is a respected, professional, dedicated colleague. As I recount my involvement with Jacques I will start with the present and move sequentially towards the past. Jacques is by no doubt one of the most talented multitasking professionals I've had the pleasure to observe and work with. This past year alone he was teaching not only his overload of classes but took over an ill colleague's schedule as well to the extent that he was almost teaching twice the load of a normal teacher. He is quick of mind and adjusted to this task easily. Within the classroom his sharp intellect and wit win him over with the students. He perceives classroom management problems before they even become an issue thus minimizing them as much as possible. He came up with many devices to deter students from using their usual excuses for not turning in homework. His problem solving skills and intuitive nature allow him to analyze why students are creating the situations they can sometimes put themselves into which hinder their learning process. His rapport with the parents is such that they are completely at ease with him and he is able to retain further knowledge on the student's predicament that he invariably puts together with the previous knowledge of the students reactions and responses to create a holistic picture of the student and their environment. From this he is able to liaison between the student, parent, and often other teachers to create the best learning environment for that student. In twenty seven years of teaching, I don't know that I have ever come across someone as talented at this type of management skill at such a young age. I would say he is a born administrator. He is empathetic, but firm. He is consistent and extremely fair about the policies he implements within his classroom. He instinctively knows how to get the best out of his students without burning them out. I know all of this because for the past two years I have had the pleasure of mentoring Jacques as he obtained his alternative teaching certificate. He and I have worked closely for the past two years on different teaching and classroom management strategies. He is a natural born teacher and he has honed his innate skills to an "exceeds expectations" as far as I am concerned.

As a friend I travel back a couple of years to around 2004-2005. Jacques came to Awty International School after graduating college and working for a while with his own translating business. I knew him as a former student, but had not come to know the young man who now I encountered. Here stood before me a young man that I only knew from the classroom. As we started to exchange ideas at various functions I realized he had developed into a mature, quick witted, intelligent, humorous individual. There were so many facets to this one person that I was fascinated. He is a hunter, traveler,

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translator, interested in law, entrepreneur, and I truly believe he could easily do stand up comedy. I can truly say that I have never had a conversation with Jacques where I didn't come away in a better mood and smiling. He has got to be one of the funniest people that I know and I have come to really value our conversations. His perspective is fresh, funny, but intelligent. He doesn't arbitrarily comment on subjects that he knows little about simply because he knows a lot about a lot, so conversation with him can end up anywhere. He is well versed in so many different areas of life that it's hard to find an area that he can't discuss intelligently. It's extremely intellectually stimulating. Needless to say I consider him at this point in our journey a friend.

Lastly, Jacques was a former student of mine at Awty. He was in the very first class of mine in 1999-2000 when I came to Awty. I remember this year very well since it was my first time to teach in a private school. I had twenty years of work in public schools, but I had never taught at a private school. In addition, I had never taught the International Baccalaureate program before. It was a difficult year to say the least, but Jacques was one of four students that stood out from that year. He was so fast to learn and seemed so independent even back then. He managed his own life and would show up at extracurricular activities even when they were far away. Always he seemed driven even back then. To a casual observer it might have appeared that he was disorganized and chaotic, but to those fortunate enough to know him it was apparent that he was managing so many facets of his life at that point that he was the perfect example of organized chaos. I don't know how he managed to handle what he did back then at such a young age, but he did. The terms, "old soul", could have described the young student I came to know in that one year. Even back then I remember laughing at his impressions of a previous science teacher he had. That particular group of students that graduated that year called me, "mamma", and he still does to this day.

As I write this recommendation for Jacques, I realize we have had a definite journey together. I have known him for eight years and periodically have had the pleasure to watch him grow and mature into one of the most talented teachers I've ever seen. In addition I have come to value his friendship and will miss him dearly. I would say that who ever gain his skills will benefit tremendously. Their gain is truly Awty's loss. Someday I can see him as a Head Master of an International School somewhere in the world and loving it. What a phenomenal individual; I wish him all the best. He will be missed.

Sincerely,



Pegeen Crockett  
Science Department Chair  
IB Biology Teacher

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