

March 9, 2016

To whom it may concern,

Joyce Grant was an author-speaker during our annual Literacy Week this year, in 2016, and last year, in 2015.

During her visit to Unionville Montessori School on Thursday, January 28th, Joyce addressed gr. 4 students for about one hour. She spoke with passion and knowledge about issues and perspectives in Canadian cultural and political society in a way that was very accessible for this audience. She invited audience participation and contribution to an active and lively discussion about a variety of real-world problems and possible solutions. I was most impressed with the way that she was able to explain, and demonstrate in a concrete way, what "bias" is about. This is a nuanced topic that involves a talent for sophisticated, higher-order, abstract thinking. In fact, this topic is so difficult to explain to students that it can be a struggle for senior secondary students. However, by having the students participate in a role-play activity, she was able to demonstrate in a concrete way how bias influences opinions. The boys and girls were fully involved in this activity, and were enthusiastic to understand the conclusion to this human experiment. She conducted all of this with dynamism and humour. Our school would welcome the chance to have her return.

Unionville Montessori School is an educational institution that offers care and instruction for over 1,000 students aged 2 to 14 (grade 8). We offer an advanced, academically rigorous program in our elementary school in grades 1 to 8. The school is located at 16th Avenue and Kennedy in Markham, near Historic Main Street Unionville.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Adrianna McQuaid

Vice-Principal, Unionville Montessori Private School

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