

September 1, 2011

The Management and Staff  
Raffles Montessori  
95 Telok Kurau Road  
Singapore 423797

Dear Mr & Mrs Khng, Ms Tracy Lim and Directresses:

As we approach Teachers Day 2011, we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank all of you for all you have done to develop our daughter Seraphine Lai over the last 4 years. Seraphine joined Raffles



Montessori just before her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday and will actually end up celebrating 5 out of 6 birthdays she's ever had with this school.



We remember bringing our scared little child, still with a pacifier in her mouth (which she would hide in the car), crying as she entered the school every morning. Despite the continuous assurances by Mrs Khng and Ms Tracy Lim, we were quite worried that she would not adjust as she was naturally shy and lacked confidence.

Over the years, whenever we reached the year end, we would evaluate whether it would be necessary to move her to a more conventional kindergarten, as we had nagging doubts whether she would be prepared for the competitive primary school environment, due to her lack of seriousness with learning. While we're glad she is by nature, free-spirited, we were also worried that her care-free attitude could limit her as she is less competitive in nature, a trait which has both pros and cons. But we stayed firm in our decision to continue with Raffles Montessori as we were convinced by Mrs Khng of the Montessori philosophy and principles and trusted the system and the teachers to help develop her.



We are glad we stayed the course as, today, Seraphine has transformed from that shy, scared, pampers-clad toddler, with a pacifier in her mouth, into a confident, chatty, knowledgeable, kind girl, with a great sense of humour. We noticed a huge change in her after she enrolled in the extended day program as she became more mature and behaved less spoilt (or threatened by a younger sibling) and more independent, caring and helpful at home. She often raves about the fun she has in school due to the extended day program, another huge change from the early days, when we could not extract any information about her day in school from her. And through this, we have witnessed the forming of her absorbent mind.

As she entered her final year 2011, we were worried she could not read, though we were

already assured by Ms Tracy that the school would teach her to read. Indeed, within half a year, we saw her reading almost everything she sees; from signboards to packaging labels to magazines and books and has recently attempted to read an old hand-me-down encyclopedia bought by her late grandfather for her older cousin.



While we have supplemented her early education with Tien Hsia Chinese classes, music, art, swimming, abacus and taekwondo classes, we feel the true synthesis of her learning has happened in Raffles Montessori.



She takes on all her outside-school projects with gusto and has a positive mindset towards all the challenges we throw at her. She has even requested repeatedly to go for speech and drama classes, as the extended day program has instilled in her a love for acting, dancing and presenting.



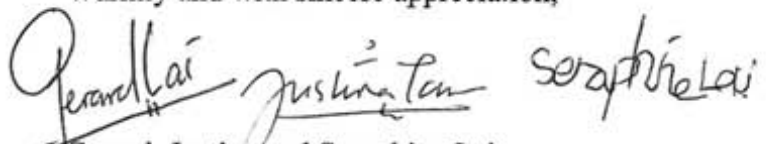
This has been something we are overawed about, as it was beyond our expectations. We were really delighted to see her so participative in the school concert last year, even acting in Chinese, a huge surprise to us, given her earlier years of fear and shyness.

We are very happy to see her progress intellectually and emotionally and would like to take this opportunity (before 2012 creeps up on us) to acknowledge each and every one of you who have played a part to shape her. **THANK YOU** for giving her the opportunity to learn and grow, helping us to bring her up to be a person with poise, confidence, infectious enthusiasm and compassion. You have given her a strong foundation to meet the future challenges that society demands.



We have full confidence that she is entering primary school, well equipped to handle the new demands from the local education system.

Warmly and with sincere appreciation,

  
Gerard, Justina and Seraphine Lai