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Postponing Re-Enrollment

Ania Mitros and Seth LaForge <aniaseth@ofb.net>

Sat, Jan 7, 2017 at 4:47 PM

To: Dominic Liechti <dominic@khanlabschool.org>

Cc: Erica Cosgrove <erica@khanlabschool.org>, Orly Friedman <orly@khanlabschool.org>

Bcc: seth.laforge@gmail.com

Dear Dominic,

This morning we watched Moby shuffle through the three sheets of paper on which we'd printed the after school club options for him to review. He re-examined the check marks he'd put next to his top choices and re-read the descriptions. It just broke Ania's heart to imagine explaining he can't go back.

We continue to think that all this boils down to an unpleasant but resolvable miscommunication.

We're very happy with what we've seen of the school. The teachers are enthusiastic and capable; you are clearly evolving the school to be continually more effective; and Moby wants to stay as long as possible each day and is clearly learning a lot.

We believe Moby is benefitting from KLS and we believe in the school's vision statement to "design student-centered global learning experiences, accessible to the world." We like what we've seen of the teaching process and teaching outcomes. It took us a while, but by November we'd figured out existing processes for observing Moby's development. For example, since we were told that volunteering opportunities are through field trips or to be directly coordinated with teachers, we've each participated in a field trip, and we've each volunteered in the classroom with Sophie. After Ania's volunteer experience, Janet invited Ania to help with art class, which seems like a great connection since it both provides Janet with an art-trained helper and Ania with an opportunity for welcome participation.

After some reflection and the two in-person meetings with you, we believe we better see where you're coming from, too. Clearly we had a misunderstanding: What to you was clear discouragement to stop asking questions to us came across as seeming like we hadn't explained our concern clearly enough. We apologize for this misunderstanding. As Ania admitted in her meeting with you, early in the school year we struggled to understand through what means we could know how our son was doing at the school. We were probably not sufficiently clear in saying that by November we were happy with our level of involvement. The conversations we had with other parents and with Kat really helped us understand the intent behind the rules and so how better to live within the rules. If you would like to offer us more explicit guidance, we would like to hear it. We were truly hopeful that we could put our three months' learning into practice and continue to integrate into the KLS community. Seth sincerely apologizes for bringing up our delayed re-enrollment at the PA meeting; it was inappropriate.

We feel really shaken at how confrontational this has become. We hope we can work together better in the future, and watch Arlo join his big brother Moby at KLS next year. We will make a concerted effort to be more diplomatic in the future.

Regards,
Ania & Seth

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