

Longfellow School
21 Longfellow Avenue
Brunswick, Maine 04011-2544
Telephone: 207-319-1980
Gregory K. Scott, Principal

November 14, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

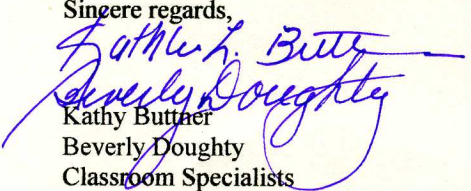
Justifying the benefits of CREA to organizations interested in the future funding of *Cathance River Education Alliance* is *extremely easy* and *somewhat difficult* at the same time!

First, the easy! We have worked closely with the talented and devoted CREA *crew* for the past three years. When we were first invited to visit the site (prior to taking our students there) we were given an excellent overview of what was offered and how to take full advantage of this remarkable resource! We fell in love with the facility, the surroundings, the philosophy, the training and the people! We kept going back! We signed up for every workshop offered! We could not wait to get our paperwork in for approval for our first (of many) fieldtrips including a very successful *Haiku Hike* and a *Make-Your-Own-Nature Art!* (And, we each have 2 more trips planned for later this year)! Most students rate it as *the best field trip ever!* Rick Wilson, Cheryl Wilson, Sarah Rodgers and the CREA Crew are irresistible! Because CREA puts 100% of their effort, enthusiasm and energy into providing experiences that students will never forget, students reap the rewards. The only thing they do *forget* is that they are learning while having so much fun!

Now, the difficult part! Explaining what it is *really* like to have a classroom full of students grinning and bouncing out of their seats with enthusiasm as Sarah Rodgers arrives with her pails of pond water, necessary nets, ice cube trays and magnification tools! It is priceless! We viewed *creatures* with the Pro Scope on a large projection screen so that all could see the wonders of the pond at once! During the 4 follow-up lessons the students' hands are wet, their eyes are wide and they are engaged in the enthusiastic act of learning! In the technological world that we live in, it is so refreshingly exciting to see students actively participating in the real world that surrounds them. It is not just science! It is not just the environment! CREA brings literacy and the arts to the outdoors! And, it brings the outdoors to life in the classroom. The motivation for learning is right there under every rock, hovering over the pond and hiding below in the mud! The curious question! The artistic create! The scientists explore! You only have to be there once (with or without the students) to know that this is a classroom that can reach out to all interests, abilities and learning differences that make up any classroom!

Please consider funding this outstanding educational program! It is worth more than the written word can describe! WE are willing to offer additional information at any time. We can be reached at Longfellow School. Phone 319-1980

Sincere regards,



Kathy Buttner
Beverly Doughty
Classroom Specialists
Longfellow School