



# International School Moshi

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19 December 2002

To whom it may concern:

### **Open Reference for Suzanne Russell**

Sue Russell joined International School Moshi, a Good Samaritan Missionary School, in August 1998, as Head of Physical Education and Sports / Athletics Director and also as our Lifeskills Coordinator and completed her contract in July 2002. Her PE role included teaching students from age 10 to 19, developing and revising the PE curriculum throughout the school, organisation of the afternoon sports programme for all secondary students (including CAS), coaching a variety of sports, oversight of the school's stables, maintenance of the sports facilities and working with other professional and support staff to provide the best possible programme and facilities for our students. Sue took to this role with real commitment and enthusiasm and she was always determined to carry out her responsibilities to the best of her ability. Her good organisational skills and strong desire to develop and maintain a sound educational programme in sport ensured that many sports flourished in this relatively small school. The school also gained from Sue's work to establish competitions with local schools (in an area where few local structures exist within sport) as well as with other international schools in this region.

Sue carried out the potentially difficult Lifeskills teaching role with real understanding of the students' needs and a genuine sensitivity towards their concerns. Her relationship with her classes was excellent and, through this teaching, her role as a tutor, and the students' perceptions of Sue, she came to serve as an unofficial confidante and advisor to many on personal issues. In this role Sue ably took the place of a school counsellor, a position we unfortunately do not have in this school.

In a school where a full commitment is essential, Sue took on a major role through her position as Chair of Staff Association. At all times she saw her responsibilities as working in cooperation with administration and her contributions to the weekly administrative meetings were thoughtful and beneficial. She is a team player who believes that constructive involvement beats confrontation every time. When decisions go against her initial wishes, Sue takes time to understand the reasons for this and then goes out of her way to explain those reasons to others and to support the decision. She carries the school's best interests in her mind and this is apparent through her actions at all times. This was also demonstrated by her offer to take on an additional English class last year when a teacher had to leave suddenly. Again last year we were unable to appoint an Outdoor Pursuits Coordinator and Sue quickly volunteered to act in this position until the post was filled.

I was sorry when Sue left ISM in June and I know she is missed by many students. She gave a great deal of time and energy to the school and helped to develop many areas. Her work in PE and Sports as well as in other fields was outstanding. She is a teacher who can always be relied upon for support and help as well as for a genuine professional commitment. I recommend her to you strongly.

**Keiron White**  
*Head of Moshi Campus*