

WAUNAKEE COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL
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“Committed to Children, Committed to Community, Committed to Excellence”

Shelley Joan Weiss
Principal

Laura Sowinski
Associate Principal

20 April 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Mush Husky! School Assemblies and featured speaker, Doug Ruzicka. Doug presented to our student body of 600 7th and 8th graders this afternoon and the students thoroughly enjoyed this fun learning experience. I recommend him to you.

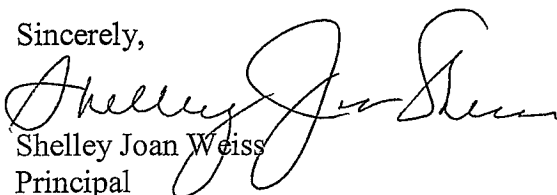
Doug's direct, informative style appeals to middle school students. He shares solid – but brief information about the history, geography, weather, and culture of Alaska and more detailed information about what it takes to participate in the sport of dog sledding. I am positive that his presentation prompted many of our students to go immediately to their computers to search for more information about the sport and the state of Alaska. He definitely generated a new interest for some.

I was particularly pleased at his style. He used his dog sledding equipment and materials as very effective visuals to enhance his presentation. He moved around in a very large gym so that all students could easily see the equipment he was displaying and discussing. He brought a brief, colorful, and appealing slide show that featured just the type of things students wanted to see – dogs, outdoor scenes, students who were involved, and portions of dog sled races. He included a running commentary on the pictures that kept students actively engaged and focused on the topic.

As I mentioned earlier, Doug is very direct, uses plain language, and has a presence that elicits respect from the students. He provided clear information and when he gave students opportunities to ask questions – he clearly was in control of the question/answer component. If students giggled or mumbled while asking – he told them to speak up clearly so that he and others could hear and understand the question. This sent a great message to the students that they should use the question/answer time effectively. He answered every question in an honest and straight forward manner. If he did not have an experience related to the question he was asked, he said he did not and moved to the next question. The time we had with Doug went faster than we imagined.

Doug did not request this letter, but I was so pleased with his presentation I was eager to write and recommend him to you. Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,


Shelley Joan Weiss
Principal