

Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School
Schenectady, New York 12304

2600 Albany Street

Dear Brimstone Committee Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons community. My name is Sister Jeanne and I am the co-chair of the Religious Studies Department. We are a Catholic school serving 386 students in grades 6-12. We welcome this opportunity to have our teachers of religious studies and some of their students participate in the Interfaith Story Circle, "Children At The Well" project.

We believe this would be a wonderful way to meet and to share with people of other faiths. So many of the unpeaceful happenings in today's world come from the enmity between religious groups. Our participation in this project would be one way to counter this; not with "head-centered intellectual" dialogue, but with meaningful faith story sharing. In addition, our teachers will have the benefit of learning more about storytelling and how they can use it in their classrooms.

We think this project would not only benefit our school but could work toward change in bringing about peaceful relationships in our broader community. We look forward to student nominations, attending the teacher workshops and the final community telling and pot luck supper in April.

We are glad to be on board!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Fielder, CND

e-mail address: JFielder02@AOL.com

phone number: (518) 465-6189

An Nur Islamic School
2195 Central Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12304
annur@iccdny.org

Phone: 518-395-9866

Fax: 518-395-9866

September 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

An Nur Islamic School is a small private school providing education to over 115 children from the Capital District. The goal of our school is to strive for excellence in all that we do. Excellence includes our behaviors, our knowledge, our relationship with others, and our relationship with our Creator.

“Children at the Well” will be the perfect tool to help us reach our goals for our children this year. It will provide our children with an opportunity to explore tales of their own faith, build confidence and public speaking ability, and share their knowledge with others.

Storytelling is a way for people to find common connections. Who can think of a better way to transform the future than by building bridges within the next generation? Through sharing and celebrating together, our children will learn that some stories cross centuries and faiths. Telling stories has been a tradition throughout time. It is a way for our children to connect with the traditions of our Prophets and the history of religion.

This experience is especially important for us as Muslims. Following the tragedy of 9/11, we now understand the importance of building relationships with people of other faiths. By working with others, we can break down misconceptions about our religion. We can also help our children understand and respect the beliefs of others.

The words of children affect the hearts of all. If we give our children pride in their own faith and culture, the respect for others around them, and the confidence to tell it, we will build a generation for change. “Children of the Well” will be a fundamental program for a positive future. We are greatly looking forward to participating in such a project.

Sincerely,

Br. Muhammad Kabir
Principal

Gert Johnson
452 Wallace Rd.
Schenectady, NY, 12304

September 22, 2005

Dear Gert,

It is my pleasure, as Director of the Community Coalition for Jewish Education, to write this letter in support of our participation in "Children at the Well; learning to draw from the wisdom of faith traditions." This is a project that will bring together students and adults of all ages, as well as of multiple religions.

I met with the directors of our day and supplementary schools recently, and they are very eager to undertake this project. We are happy to provide you with as many opportunities to facilitate workshops in storytelling with teachers and the youth of our community as you wish.

What excited us most about the project is that it allows the participants to get to know people of other faiths. Working on this project can help break down misconceptions about other religions. It will be beneficial to our community to bring families of various religions together in pride and friendship as they listen to the stories their children will tell.

Teachers, directors, and students are all eager to be involved in this project. We look forward to working with you to deepen our relationship with other religious communities through telling stories from our own tradition, and hearing stories from others'.

Shalom,
Marci Galinkin

*Marci Galinkin, Director
The Community Coalition for Jewish Education
A department of the United Jewish Federation of NENY
877 Madison Ave.
Albany, NY 12208
(518)482-8856
(518)489-5839 fax*

Dear NSN Brimstone Award Committee members,

We, The Board of Trustees and Board of Governors of the Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District are honored to support The Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area (Albany, Schenectady and Troy, NY), in their efforts to develop and present “Children at the Well: Learning to draw from the wisdom of faith traditions, An Interfaith, Intergenerational storytelling venture.” We look forward to having our teachers and students participate in their program.

We are certain that this project will facilitate communication and acceptance, and deepen the understanding between different interfaith communities and their traditions. We believe that by supporting this project we will encourage and strengthen cross-cultural interfaith connections through story telling events.

The participation of children and adults from the temple community, in such events, is particularly important as they become present and future ambassadors in a multi cultural world. We would strongly encourage and support the teachers and students from the Hindu Temple Heritage Class to engage in “Children at the Well” as they may be enriched by this experience and training.

Sincerely,

Suman s Joshi
Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District
450 Albany-Shaker Road
Loudonville, NY, 12211