

The Board of Trustees
Japanese Educational Institute

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the parents and staff of the Greenwich Japanese School and especially the Principal, Mr. Toki. I have been employed by the Greenwich Japanese School as a teacher of English as a Second Language for four years. I am Jewish and I openly practice my faith. I have never been discriminated against at any time during my years at the Greenwich Japanese School. In fact my religious beliefs, history, and holidays have been embraced by other faculty members, parents, students, and Principal Toki.

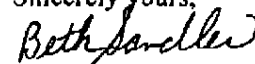
There are many examples I can state where the Jewish religion has been part of a teaching element in this school. I not only teach my students English as a Second Language but, also about American Societies. Judaism as well as other cultures and religions are an important part of American life. Last year in order to prepare my first grade students for their Holiday Concert, I taught them a traditional Hanukah song. This is something I do every year. The song had to do with a game played by Jewish children during this holiday. At a demonstration lesson in which all faculty members were invited to observe, I taught my students how to play the "Driedel Game". Mr. Toki and others came to my class. I was praised by him in his evaluation of my lesson and was asked to tell him more about this holiday.

Another example like the one I stated previously is for a Social Studies lesson. My stepfather came to this school three times as a guest speaker. He taught the students the historical story that explains the Jewish holiday, Purim. Students and Japanese teachers were involved in asking questions while eating a traditional Purim snack. All the students and teachers asked me questions after the lesson was completed. Their interest was extremely touching to me.

The Greenwich Japanese School also has been overly kind to me personally. Last June Mr. Toki allowed me to have an engagement party on the school's campus. He, along with many of the Japanese teachers, joined with my family and friends to celebrate this joyous occasion. Since then, Mr. Toki and the rest of the staff have been curious and have asked many questions about Jewish weddings and customs. In fact just this past week, I had to be absent from school to celebrate the Jewish New Year. Again, Mr. Toki along with my students and co-workers, were supportive about my missed classes and inquisitive about this holiday.

Recently, I was made aware that accusations of anti-Semitism have been made against Principal Toki and other members of the Greenwich Japanese School community. I was shocked and horrified to hear of these false statements. I have not heard any comments about the possible sale of the campus and the sharing of the campus with the new owner that expressed any dislike or disrespect for Jewish people or the Jewish religion. I am quite embarrassed, being a Jewish person, that the lawyers for the Westchester-Fairfield Hebrew Academy would use anti-Semitism as a tool for blackmail. I would be happy to provide you with more information about my positive experiences as a person from the Jewish faith working for the Greenwich Japanese School, because you should not make any decisions based on such false accusations. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely yours,



Ms. Beth Sandler