



March 28, 2008

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I am writing to thank you for allowing Angad Singh to participate in our Ninth Grade Academy's Virtual Field Trip experience. As you may already know, our Academy's interdisciplinary curriculum has focused this semester on building community and encouraging students to identify their own responsibilities in relation to the group. Having Angad join us as the keynote speaker during this community awareness program certainly helped to inspire our students to engage in meaningful dialogue and to take action through their Advisory classes to solve problems they have identified together.

Since Angad's visit, these Advisory class projects have taken off, with our ninth grade students reading to preschoolers in the park, speaking to middle school students about what it takes to be successful in high school, making films about what it really means to be a parent (in an attempt to address the growing teen pregnancy issue in our school), building a community garden, and creating a drug awareness program. While we had many speakers from the community present to our students about the type of differences they could make, it was really Angad who caught their attention. Knowing that someone even younger than themselves had already made such an impact in his own community seemed to touch their sensibilities in a way the other adult speakers could not.

In a survey at the end of the event, an overwhelming majority of our students and teachers stated that they would definitely repeat this Virtual Field trip experience next year, with well over 80% listing Angad as a highlight of the day. So again, I thank you for allowing Angad to join and participate with us. It was quite an experience for us all, one that will continue to inspire action within our school and within our community. How great to see students learning from each other and engaging with caring adults to make our own small world a better place.

Most sincerely,

Kelly Hanock
9th Grade Academy Coordinator
National Board Certified Teacher, ELA
California Teacher of the Year, 2006