

Monday September 22, 2014

Dear student of the MOSP classroom:

As you may already know, we are all in a classroom with a new kind of theme. During your school year I will be in school, too, at University working on my Master's degree of Education. In my school year I will think a lot about how I teach, how I plan, how our learning makes us feel better about ourselves. As part of my studies I have developed an inquiry project to examine how using sea kayaks will help students learn Science and come together as a strong classroom. I hope that my inquiry will help you feel better about yourself. I hope to show that outdoor experiences at the seashore can make school work more interesting and useful. I am trying to develop my own best practices as a teacher.

The main way I will learn will be by watching, by writing in my journal, and by thinking about what goes on. You can help! I would also like to collect: copies of your work; photos of our classroom in action; movies; online survey responses, recorded conversations to help me understand my teaching. If you agree to helping me please fill out the bottom of this letter. If you would like to help me collect the work I need, you might want to offer when it comes up in the classroom.

Part of being a good Masters student is to ask in a written letter for your permission to use your work to show to the other teachers in my Masters Program how I grow as a teacher. I will only use your work to show my own learning. This work will not be made public. I promise to make it completely confidential. If you are mentioned in any way in my work, an alias (pseudonym) will be used at all times to respect and protect your privacy. Whatever happens in my study I am committed to becoming the best teacher possible. Nothing I do will be to mark, assess or evaluate you in any way but only to strengthen my teaching practice.

Regardless of whether you say yes or no, the relationship between you and me will not change. You can also change your mind at any time during my study year and I will remove you and your work from my study. It would not affect in any way how you do at school. If you have any questions or concerns, please come and see me or contact me at the school at 250 592-4589 or at my iPhone 250 516-7589. Please also use my email, [mabrown@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:mabrown@sd61.bc.ca) to reach me.

Yours truly,



Mr. Mark Brown

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my permission for my participation to be included in Mr. Brown's inquiry research into the (please initial) \_\_\_\_\_ Monterey Ocean Studies Program, and for the collection of \_\_\_\_\_ pictures, video and audio recordings and his/her work as described above.

(please initial) AND

\_\_\_\_\_ I give consent for Mr. Brown to include my responses, communications, pictures, (please initial) \_\_\_\_\_ video and audio recordings as described above for his inquiry.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ Today I don't give my permission for my participation to be included in Mr. Brown's inquiry research into the Monterey Ocean Studies Program, and for the collection of my pictures, video and audio recordings and my work as described above. But I might if certain things happen. These are:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Mr. Brown will talk to you about any of these concerns.)

OR

I DO NOT give my permission for my participation to be included in Mr. Brown's inquiry research into the Monterey Ocean Studies Program, and for the collection of pictures, video and audio recordings and my work as described above.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ student's Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

September 22, 2014

Dear families of the Monterey Ocean Studies Program classroom:

As you may already know, I have recently started working on my Master of Education in Educational Practice at Simon Fraser University. This program enables me as an educator to reflect upon my practice and its impact on my teaching, as well as on my students' learning, with the intention of developing my own best practices. As part of my studies I have developed an inquiry project to examine how using sea kayaks will help students learn Science and come together as a strong classroom. I anticipate that my inquiry will help students feel better about themselves as learners and show a way to use outdoor experiences at the seashore to make public school education more relevant and meaningful.


My inquiry will be primarily informed by my own observations and reflections of my work as a teacher. Over the course of this school year I also will collect: student's work and/or copies of their work, photos, video recordings, online survey responses, recorded conversations to inform my understanding of my practice.

This letter of informed consent is part of my ethical responsibilities as a teacher-inquirer. I am asking your permission to use the work of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) to present to members of my graduate cohort and my instructors to demonstrate my own learning. This work will not be made public. As part of my responsibility as an educator, professionalism around issues of confidentiality will be ensured. Consistent with the ethical protocols of teacher inquiry, if your child is mentioned in the presentation of my work, an alias (pseudonym) will be used at all times to respect and protect his/her privacy. I would like to reassure you that regardless of my inquiry, my ethical best practices as a teacher will remain the same.

This inquiry process is not intended to assess, place, or evaluate your child in any way but will serve to strengthen my teaching practice. Please be assured that regardless of your decision, the integrity of the relationship I have with your child will not be affected, and you can withdraw your consent at anytime without any repercussions. If you have any questions or concerns, please come and see me or contact me at the school at 250 592-4589 or at my iPhone 250 516-7589. Please also use my email, [mabrown@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:mabrown@sd61.bc.ca) to reach me.

If you agree to give your permission, please sign below. Return one signed copy and keep the other for your own records.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

  
Mark Brown, MOSP Teacher

Appendix 1B: Letter of Consent to parents—signature page

Child's Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my child to be included in Mark Brown's inquiry research into the Monterey Ocean Studies Program, and for the collection of

\_\_\_\_\_ pictures, video and audio recordings and his/her work as described above.

(please initial **AND**

\_\_\_\_\_ I give consent for Mark Brown to include my responses, communications, pictures,

(please initial) \_\_\_\_\_ video and audio recordings as described above for his inquiry.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ Today, I do not give my permission for my child to be included in Mark Brown's inquiry research into the Monterey Ocean Studies Program, and for the collection of his/her pictures, video and audio recordings and his/her work as described above. But I might if certain conditions are met. Some of these are:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Mr. Brown will certainly follow up on any of these concerns.)

OR

I DO NOT give my permission for my child's participation to be included in Mark Brown's inquiry research into the Monterey Ocean Studies Program, nor for the collection of pictures, video and audio recordings and his/her work as described above.

Parent/guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/guardian name \_\_\_\_\_

Please print

Date: \_\_\_\_\_