



Derek J. Vandegrift

Director of History and Social Studies

November 3, 2015

Dear Judy,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for all of your efforts to share outstanding arts programming with our students in Waltham. The program that our high school students saw this past Friday, *Home Within*, was yet another exceptional performance. Our students left the Brandeis campus inspired by the music of Mr. Azmeh and the art of Mr. Younes.

In my role as Director of History and Social Studies, I aim to present our students with a wealth of opportunities to enrich their educational experience. However, as I am sure you are well aware, school budgets are tight and it is a constant challenge to find the funds to pay for extracurricular activities. In light of this, I am especially indebted to you and to Brandeis University for your continued generosity and for your investment in Waltham's students.

As teachers of History and Social Studies, we recognize that we must prepare our students for an increasingly global society. During my time as both a teacher and administrator in Waltham, *Music Unites Us* programs have taken our students and teachers to the farthest reaches of the globe; we have been captivated by storytellers from Africa, awed by dancers from India, and stirred by music from both the Middle and Far East.

Thank you again for your continued support of our students and our schools. Please know that we deeply value our ongoing partnership with Brandeis University and the *Music Unites Us* program. I look forward to seeing where you will take our students in the future.

With appreciation,

Derek J. Vandegrift  
Director of History and Social Studies  
Waltham Public Schools