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## David & Mary Thomson C.I.

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### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In May of this year, 15 of our students from David & Mary Thomson, were given a fantastic opportunity to create original pieces of batik art through the Modern Batik Workshops, led by David Kibuuka.

When I originally heard of the opportunity, I did not realize that David would be the artist conducting the workshop. Almost 15 years ago, I had taken an adult workshop with David and I was delighted to find that he was still teaching his unique art form. Because I was familiar with David's work, it was easy to get our students excited at the prospect of having such a renowned artist sharing his talents with them.

Over the course of four evenings and two Saturdays, our students were fully engaged from start to finish in the process of creating their art pieces. Many would come in early and stay late to continue perfecting their work; behaviour which is not typical high of school students! David inspired students to come up with plans in the initial stage by showing them his own work and work that other students had created. David was always available for questions before and during the process and the students were excited to become part of the larger group of students who had created Batik through his Facebook page and professional website.

David is very flexible in his approach with students and his love of the art form encouraged students to do their best from the start, engaging them the entire time. David also modeled and instilled a sense of professionalism and pride in the students throughout the whole process of creating their work. He is very flexible in his approach with students and his ability to problem solve helped many students push themselves to a higher level of artistic achievement.

As a result of our particular workshops, which were conducted in conjunction with Agincourt Community Services, selected students who participated in a "Master Class" were able to teach the technique to seniors in the community. This proved to be an incredibly empowering opportunity for the students, who gained the confidence to continue making batik art and sharing their expertise in the community. The work created by the students and the work by the seniors was displayed in a beautifully organized exhibit at the Scarborough Civic Centre this past September. This was the first time our students and the seniors had ever had their work displayed in an exhibit and the pride of everyone involved was truly heart-warming.

Thank you David for sharing all of your talents and expertise in working with young people, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sofia Evangelou  
Curriculum Leader, Visual and Performing Arts  
David and Mary Thomson C.I