

## Robyn Schroeder

As a parent with a child with a cognitive disorder, the course of action necessary to provide a successful and nurturing school environment is a difficult choice especially living in Luxembourg. Therefore, I applaud the professionalism, dedication and inspiration that Robyn Schroeder has provided to my son as the learning support specialist at ISL. Her knowledge, understanding, kindness and overall perspective have been such a positive influence on my son.

My son, Nicholas, has had an extraordinary experience in middle school due to the efforts of Robyn Schroeder. How was this achievable? First of all, educators constantly speak of collaboration but does it really occur. In the case of Ms. Schroeder, collaboration was the key to her students' success. Her mannerism and approach were welcomed by all teachers therefore her students reaped the benefits. In my son's case, this level of collaboration provided him the support and guidance to achieve results that years ago were thought of as unattainable. Secondly, the ability to inspire a student is intangible. Students who have any diagnosed cognitive disorder very frequently lack confidence in themselves due to the constant comparison to their peers. For a student to have one adult who truly believes and supports him is invaluable. Due to Ms. Schroeder's inspiration, Nicholas is a productive and motivated student who is eager to tackle challenges both emotional and academic. Nicholas has been taught the skills and given the confidence to work to the best of his abilities regardless of the obstacles he will encounter. Lastly, Ms. Schroeder provided a classroom environment that could be considered a safe zone. Students were able to truly be themselves and express any frustrations or challenges they might have faced during the course of the school day. Then on the contrary, students celebrated and acknowledged their successes and triumphs. One would think, shouldn't all classrooms be like this. As reality dictates, no. But, in the case of Ms. Schroeder, this was the reality.

As a mother, I never thought such a transformation could occur within one school year. As a fellow educator with over twenty-seven years of experience, I admire and respect the level of professionalism and dedication exhibited by Robyn Schroeder.

In closing, I leave you a quote from Howard Gardner:

"It is of the utmost importance that we recognize and nurture all of the varied human intelligences, and all of the combinations of intelligences. We are all so different largely because we all have different combinations of intelligences. If we recognize this, I think we will have at least a better chance of dealing appropriately with the many problems that we face in the world." (1987)

Our school consists of forty-three different nationalities. Each family enters this school with hopes and dreams for their children. Ms. Schroeder enabled my son's dreams to come true ... he entered high school as a successful, motivated and eager student who was prepared for his secondary education experience.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Lhoest-Squicciarini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and 'S'.

Nancy J. Lhoest-Squicciarini  
Mother of Nicholas Lhoest  
Upper School Assistant Principal  
International School of Luxembourg