



December 11, 2013.

To Whom It May Concern:

I met Andrew Murgatroyd in Ontario at the Windsor Tallships Festival where he was working as the Educational Coordinator aboard the sailing vessel *Sea Dragon* with the scientific research company Pangaea Explorations, and I was Shipboard Director and teacher with Class Afloat, a Canadian high school aboard the Norwegian tallship the *SØrlandet*. Andrew came to the ship to introduce himself and we instantly began to chat about ocean literacy and program potential. Over dinner with the rest of the teaching staff, we discussed novel ways of satisfying prescribed learning outcomes while inspiring students through ocean literacy.

Andrew was aboard the *Sea Dragon* for their research voyage through the Great Lakes, and he designed and delivered ocean literacy curriculum for high school students. He also created a program for educators on how to incorporate ocean literacy, Great Lakes ecology and conservation into the classroom. One of our goals with Class Afloat this year is to infuse ocean literacy into our program and I felt very fortunate to meet Andrew to assist us with this integration.

A few weeks later we invited Andrew to meet our ship in Quebec City, our final Canadian port of call before our transatlantic voyage. Andrew presented a lesson and science lab to our 42 students. The content of the lesson was focused on marine plastic pollution and the lab, which involved all of the students and staff, was an examination of ocean plastics based on relative density. I was extremely impressed with Andrew's engaging teaching style through his prescription to the Socratic method. His understanding of experiential education was evident and students were keen and involved.

After teaching our students, Andrew led a Professional Development session with our teachers, sailing crew and administrators in which we discussed cross-curricular integration of ocean literacy. His communication and interpersonal skills were an asset to this discussion and we have revisited many of these ideas as the semester has unfolded.

Class Afloat remains fortunate to have Andrew involved in our program through his new Literasea website. We are excited to continue to connect with him through this fantastic resource that offers up to date research and ideas for our teachers to continue to bring the ocean into the classroom.

Since I met Andrew Murgatroyd I have consistently been impressed with his enthusiasm and passion for ocean environments and experiential education and I wholeheartedly recommend Andrew Murgatroyd for participation in the STEAM Communication Fellowship. Should you have any further questions about Andrew I would be more than happy to speak with you, however, please note that I am primarily contactable by email since I am on board the ship. My email address is: [jwilliams@classafloat.com](mailto:jwilliams@classafloat.com). Messages can also be left for me at the Class Afloat office at 902-634-1895.

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Williams  
Shipboard Director