

December 11, 2017

Dear Ms. Olteanu, Mr. Ellinas, and Mr. Perri,

Wow! What amazing two evening performance for Mackenzie Music and Alexander Mackenzie High School. My husband and I couldn't attend the same night show which gave us a unique opportunity to witness the incredible talents portrayed by different cast members. As many of the other family members, I came to the performance straight from work battling traffic, and the feeling of exhaustion which overcomes us at the end of the workday. I was grateful for the comfortable theater chair and was ready to relax. Since the first note played by the orchestra, an involuntary smile spread over my face. I must say, it stayed on for the duration of the entire performance (including the intermission during which I excitedly and enthusiastically shared my impressions with friends and other family members). I have been to many different performances, musicals included, however I cannot remember ever being so positively charged with an enormous amount of emotions after watching a show. The talent and the skill demonstrated by all of the cast and the orchestra members was absolutely incredible. Some audience members were not aware that the live orchestra was playing for the entire time. The musicians sounded absolutely amazing! Both performances were flawless thanks to the hard work of the stage crew. And the stage sets... Hard to imagine that it was all put together and perfected by the high school students. What an enormous amount of professionalism! I wish that every Alexander Mackenzie student and staff member had the opportunity to witness the incredible performance.

I am aware of the numerous hours it took the students to prepare and to put together the musical, many of them placing their academic studies on hold. What an amazing opportunity to learn together, push oneself to achieve, share their talents, and inspire others. Yes, the students are talented, artistic, creative, and highly dedicated, however, nothing would have been possible without the hard work, guidance, and devotion of the teachers of the Alexander Mackenzie High School. Dearest Ms. Alexander-Lui, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Hudspith and all other involved staff members - thank you for being the source of inspiration, for believing in and guiding such an exceptional group of talented young people. All your hard work and dedication are highly valued by the students and families. Thank you to the administrative and the teaching staff of the Alexander Mackenzie High School for your understanding and making it possible for the students to be absent from their classes and their course work. Judging by my daughter who plunged her head into her studies the day right after the performance, I am confident that with effort and setting one's priorities straight, there is time for everything.

P.S. I think that next time, the orchestra should be allowed to stand up and bow in front of the audience in order to receive their share of applause.

With gratitude,
Viktoria Feldman