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South Vancouver Youth Centre

November 25, 2005
Quest School

To Whom It May Concern,

The students and staff of Quest School were fortunate last June to have a visit from Mike Larson and his critters. Quest is a VSB day program designed to serve the needs of at-risk teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18.

Prior to his visit I had seen Mike at a neighbour's birthday party and had enjoyed his presentation. Mike was able to accommodate us in our busy schedule and I found it easy to select creatures after viewing them on his web site. He was extremely helpful over the telephone and together we compiled a fascinating collection of the weirdest and creepiest insects that would be sure to keep his audience captivated.

By arriving on time Mike guaranteed us a full hour if not more of his time. Many of my students find it difficult to maintain focus for that amount of time but I noticed that the students were absorbed in the antics of his critters as well as his informative commentaries. What teenager would not be compelled to keep his or her eyes on a tarantula? But what makes Mike's presentations so effective is Mike himself. Mike has a unique manner of interacting with each and every participant in his audience. He maintains eye contact and values each comment made by the students. He establishes and maintains a safe and respectful setting for both the animals and the students while still being able to give a hands-on experience. I also appreciated how Mike was able to share some of his own personal experiences that got him on the road to creating Mike's Critters.

We are eager to have Mike and his critters return to Quest again this year. I cannot recommend him highly enough to all ages.

Liz Komcar
(Teacher at Quest)