

Atlantic Jewish Council
Suite 508
5670 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1H6

To Whom It May Concern:

On the afternoon of April 18, 2007, Mr. Philip Riteman, survivor of the holocaust, spoke to the students and staff of Glace Bay Senior High School. After hearing Mr. Riteman once before, I knew what the audience was going to experience and sure enough, I was not surprised.

From Mr. Riteman's humorous opening remarks to his tearful closing, his raw experiences and sincere emotions captained the audience on a spellbinding ride that carried them from horrific train rides to tender moments of love and friendship, to desperate moments of survival and loss and back again to family and freedom.

This range of emotion, this honest display of courage and devotion by a simple family man who was taken in by pre-confederation Newfoundland, was wholeheartedly embraced by an audience of young adults that made the community proud.

Every high school has, as part of its curriculum, the story of the "Holocaust", with its pictures of "tattooed" arms and "swastikas", yet there is always that distance that time and the written word create. The moment Mr. Riteman begins to speak, his voice sweeps across the audience and covers them with a sincerity and truth that is felt by all. The spontaneous laughter broken by the quiet tears marks the hour that seems to take only minutes.

The innocent affection shown to Mr. Riteman as he mingles with the students following the presentation is wonderful to witness. His love of life and people has become one of life's lessons. His strength in being able to share his pain with us is something our students will never forget.

On behalf of the students and staff of Glace Bay Senior High School, we pray that Mr. Riteman will have the health and strength to continue to expose his audiences to the horrors of a past time so that we may one day be able to say "Never Again!".

Peter Campbell, V.P.

Glace Bay Senior High

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Attention: Mr. Jon Goldberg

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

On Wednesday, April 18th, Mr. Phillip Riteman came to Malcolm Munroe Memorial Junior High School to speak with our students and staff about the horror of the holocaust and how his life has been inalterably affected by all that he witnessed, all that he lost, how much he suffered, and still suffers today. His presentation was extremely difficult to hear because it is so hard for us to acknowledge that man could be, and still is, so cruel to his fellow human beings. All 650 of our students and all of our staff members were held in silent witness as Mr. Riteman made the appalling grisliness of the holocaust real for each and every one of us. Everyone in that hall was moved emotionally. Everyone empathized with Mr. Riteman in a way I have never seen before in my 33 years as an educator.

What Mr. Riteman taught our students in his presentation could never be learned from a book, or from any other source for that matter. Mr. Riteman made us all witnesses. He put us all on notice that each individual must stand up for the human rights of all. It was an experience we shall never forget. On behalf of my students and staff, I want to offer my sincere, heartfelt thanks for your support and encouragement of Mr. Riteman in this extremely important undertaking. In my 10 years as principal, I can say without reservation, that this was the single most educational event we have ever held in our school. Once again, thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Sincerely,

L.B. Murchison, Principal