

Roundy Elementary School

1212 Colton Street
Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738

Superintendent/Business Office - 319-728-2911

Roundy Elementary School - 319-728-6218

August 22, 2003

To Whom It May Concern,

It has been our pleasure at Roundy Elementary School to participate during the last two school years (2001-2002 & 2002-2003) in the Music of Latin America (MOLA) project directed by Ms. Karin Stein and Mr. Ed East. MOLA has been working with 5th, 3rd and 1st grade classes in our school since September and their visits have been a highlight of the year for both the students and myself. The students have had the opportunity to interact with two highly competent and professional musicians and educators. Ms. Stein and Mr. East have shown an impressive ability to motivate the students they work with to explore new musical possibilities, enhance performance skills and to be open to new people and ideas. In addition to the music (which features folk music from many Latin American cultures) the students have been learning about the geography, history, languages and lifestyles of the Latin American peoples.

Perhaps the best testimony to the effectiveness of the MOLA project is that the students are excited about what they are learning and eager to go beyond what is expected to "just get by." As a music educator, I too have learned a great deal from Ms. Stein and Mr. East. They have given me ideas and perspectives that I have brought to my other classes so that the impact of MOLA is felt in the whole artistic curriculum here at Roundy Elementary.

MOLA has been such a positive influence in our school and community that we have budgeted \$1,000 for MOLA and it is our hope that this program will continue to impact our students in such positive and meaningful ways it has for the past two years.

Robert Romza



K-5 Music Teacher
Roundy Elementary School
Columbus Junction, IA 52738