

Dear Mr. Richardson,

This past weekend, I took my 12 year old daughter to J1Con. This was her second anime/cosplay convention, and her first where she appeared in costume (she was the very blue Lapis Lazuli from Steven Universe). She has been having a rough year, being the victim of bullying and generally feeling isolated from her peers. Her self-esteem was in the toilet. Working to raise money for her cosplay, being able to become a favorite character, and, above all, being able to connect with people who share her interests and enthusiasms have helped lift her out of a dark place.

Running a con on the scale of J1Con must be a lot of work, and I'm sure a lot of frustrations come with it. I just wanted to drop you a line to tell you how much my family and I appreciate the work that you and the whole staff put into this event. My own nerdy enthusiasms only marginally touch on the anime/manga world, but I still had a great time. I encountered a friendly crowd that was diverse in race and class and age and gender, all connecting on a level of friendship and acceptance. I've never been in an event where it has been so easy to engage perfect strangers in conversations. J1Con is absolutely the best that our city has to offer. We will definitely be back next year!

Mark W. Rabuck, Ph.D.
School Archivist
Department of History (Upper School)
Germantown Academy
mark.rabuck@germantownacademy.net