

## Finding Mountain View Academy

The first time I visited Mountain View Academy I thought the children were either medicated or putting on an act! I had never seen such polite and respectful children. Three years later I realize that the behaviour is absolutely genuine and I am thrilled that my teen-age daughter is part of the culture. Each time I am at the school, I see one of the primary grade students hug a teacher or administrator. The whole atmosphere is like one big functional family, with lots of care between the younger and older students.

As our family has moved many times, I have been involved at two different schools where an “anti-bullying program” was introduced. At MVA, such a program is not necessary because the fabric of the school and the relationships between the students and teachers are already based on respect, kindness and acceptance. These core values are in place and upheld by staff and students. One of our favourite things about the school is that there is no drama. My daughter feels free to express her true self and feels very accepted. I often think that the school founders could go on a speaker circuit, advising other schools how to create a climate of respect and acceptance!

There is peer pressure at Mountain View Academy. Previously, my daughter experienced peer pressure around what she wore, how cool she was, and who she hung out with. At Mountain View, she feels compelled to get her assignments in early and do her very best with studies. The “pressure” has paid off, as she has been the recipient of the gold pin, for students with an over 90% average since she started at MVA. The homework and expectations of both teachers and fellow students are very high and will prepare her well for the rigour of university.

Our younger daughter was at a different private school and will also attend Mountain View Academy. We decided we want both our daughters in a school where they are free to mature at a natural pace; encouraged to follow their special talents; and receive a top-notch education. We are very grateful to the school, teachers and students for creating a harmonious educational experience!