



## TESTIMONIALS



eaton arrowsmith

### "THIS SCHOOL IS REMARKABLE."

You ALL go more than the extra mile. You give ten extra miles to each student every day. Sometimes (maybe often) you also have to do the same for each family too!

You all care when you are exhausted. You all listen when you have heard enough. And you work to understand what motivates each student.

You also provide encouragement when your emotional and energy tanks are depleted. Each student has a different level of coping each day or even during each class and each student has different learning disabilities for you to think your way around.

Thank you for choosing to do this as your jobs and for being truly compassionate and understanding individuals. Your care is active.

This school is remarkable. It is growing more resilient and stronger. Each student is also gaining those characteristics. Eaton Arrowsmith is a positive solution.

I thank you for your incredible tolerance as each student wobbles towards these strengths that all of you already display.

I thank you for your forgiveness for the many times (students and families) either deliberately or accidentally forget that you all have needs too!

YOU ALL are AWESOME.

Again, on behalf of the students, and the parent body, thank you!

*- Alicia Campbell, EA Redmond parent and student*



**“EATON ARROWSMITH IS IN THE TOP  
ECHELON OF SCHOOLS.”**

We were fortunate to enroll our child in Eaton Arrowsmith to complete a program of cognitive remediation for several learning disabilities.

Everything about the school is excellent, from the principal to the teachers to the active parent group.

The teachers are really in tune with each child's needs: cognitive, social and emotional. Over the last 23 years, our three children have been enrolled in a total of twelve schools from pre-K to college, public and private.

In our experience, Eaton Arrowsmith is in the top echelon of schools.

Our child has blossomed in this environment and is ready to enter high school in a college preparatory program.

*- Dr. Daniel Bankson and Dr. Anne Bankson, EA Redmond parents*



**“MY DAUGHTER IS GETTING MORE COMFORTABLE  
WITH HERSELF AND MORE CONFIDENT.”**

I remember the feeling I had when I dropped Emily off for her first day at EA: relief. I could finally breathe knowing that she was where she needed to be to get better.

We struggled with her behaviour and her inability to understand or communicate with us, so we couldn't help her without being frustrated.

At age six she was already red flagged for depression or harming herself or others. I needed to know that if my husband Todd and I died, Emily would be okay – that she would be able to take care of herself.

When I read about EA in Reader's Digest, it made sense: fix the brain and Emily will be better.

Emily spent four years at EA. We saw improvements in her ability to communicate and she had stronger abstract thinking skills and heightened cognitive awareness.

I feel that Emily is getting more comfortable with herself and more confident. Her life is full now and I know that she will be able to take care of herself and even take care of me some day.

I am so grateful for EA because I know that Emily would not be who she is right now if we didn't risk everything to send her to this school.

**- Heather Bishop, EA Victoria parent**



## **“THE FACULTY AND STAFF AT THE SCHOOL ARE TOP-NOTCH.”**

As a family relocating to Vancouver from the States, we were quite nervous about what we'd find. Leaving work, family and friends – not to mention our support group – to move to a new location seemed daunting.


However, we could not have been more pleased with our relocation. First, Vancouver is a wonderful and welcoming city. Whether you like outdoor activities, indoor activities, food, music or theatre – it has it all. It's safe, yet has an international flair. We met some wonderful people there who continue to be our friends.

The Eaton Arrowsmith was amazing. The faculty and staff at the school are top-notch. Unlike other schools, we found that the communication channel was very strong. We felt we had a true partnership with the Eaton Arrowsmith team at all times.

The Arrowsmith program itself is truly breaking new ground for students with learning differences. We saw changes in our daughters that I do not believe we would have seen had we kept them in the schools they were in. These changes continue to this day.

For us, it started as a scary move, but ended as one of the most special and productive times we've had as a family. We hope that other families get to experience the same!

***– Jean, EA Vancouver parent***



**“I CANNOT IMAGINE WHERE MY DAUGHTER WOULD BE NOW –  
AT AGE 13 AND IN GRADE EIGHT – IF SHE HAD NOT  
COMPLETED THREE YEARS AT EA.”**

EA was a gift in every sense of the word: perfect timing, perfect place, and perfect staff. In short, it was perfection.

We were sitting in our living room, and Fiji described in beautiful metaphor about how we had been asking Tsion to lift the sofa without giving her muscles the proper workout needed to know how to lift it.

Ding! The light went on. It was clear that we needed to do something different – something radical and new. EA fit the bill on every level.

I cannot imagine where my daughter would be now – at age 13 and in grade eight – if she had not completed three years at EA.

She is confident, strong, positive, diligent, perseverant, and believes in herself and her abilities. She has a will and a desire to do great things. EA gave her the tools and confidence to excel not only in school, but also in life. And so importantly EA gave her back her love of learning and discovery.

She is less resistant, more resilient, and willing to try in every area of her life.

Thank you EA to your structure, your principles, and most importantly to who you hire! Your staff is the best EVER! They are professional and kind and they over-deliver and work with the highest levels of integrity.

Our years at EA were amazing.

I feel like we have an extended family through this meaningful experience.

Thank you for everything!

**– Aase Liium-Hall, EA Victoria parent**



***“MY DAY AT EA WAS WONDERFUL AND LOVELY.”***

A conversation between Jason Cruickshank, principal of Eaton Arrowsmith in Victoria, and a seven-year-old student:

**Jason:** How was your day?

**Student:** It was wonderful and lovely.

**Jason:** What made it wonderful and lovely?

**Student:** Um, waking up and getting to go to school to make my brain stronger. I love it. And the sunshine. It's wonderful.



## VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

### STUDENTS

- Nick, an Eaton Arrowsmith student, talks about the changes he has noticed since he started at EA.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Nicholas, an Eaton Arrowsmith student, talks about the progress he has made since attending EA.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Grace, an Eaton Arrowsmith student, discusses her excitement over the changes she has noticed in her ability to complete certain tasks after some time at EA.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Iana G, an Eaton Arrowsmith student, talks about the “Clocks” exercise, which the school uses to strengthen students’ capacities for reasoning.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Alex P, an Eaton Arrowsmith student, explains how the Arrowsmith Program has helped his academics.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Ashara R talks about how she has mastered mental math equations through the Arrowsmith Program.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Eaton Arrowsmith graduates and their parents discuss how the school changed their lives.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Trevor Bestwick, an Eaton Arrowsmith graduate, explains how the program helped him. He went from struggling in school to getting accepted into several engineering programs at Canadian universities.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.



## VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

### PARENTS

- Andrea, an Eaton Arrowsmith parent, talks about why her son came to EA and how it has helped him.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Rachel, an Eaton Arrowsmith parent, discusses the changes she has noticed in her son and how he has become a happy, carefree child.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Erin, an Eaton Arrowsmith parent, discusses the challenges her daughter experienced in public school and how the supportive environment at EA has helped her.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.





**“CONFIDENCE, CURIOSITY AND PASSION FOR LEARNING IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EDUCATION AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT OF MAGNUSSEN.”**

In yesterday's final assembly, Branden won the Academic Achievement Award for the entire high school. He was pretty pleased with himself. I just wanted to thank you for providing such a wonderful school environment for kids to mature through middle school. Branden's confidence, curiosity and passion for learning is a direct result of the education and supportive environment he received from Magnussen.

*- Shelley Staples, Magnussen parent*

**"THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL FOUNDATION!"**

Ridge entered Colorado College this year, ready to work in an adult learning environment, and express and defend his ideas clearly, confidently, appropriately, and passionately to promote the intellectual growth of others and to bring an open heart and mind to growing intellectually. Many of these traits were so thoughtfully and caringly nurtured at the Magnussen School. Thank you for a wonderful foundation!

*- Erica Frank, Magnussen parent*



***“THE TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATION CREATE A TRULY  
EXCEPTIONALLY WARM, FRIENDLY, NURTURING,  
ACCEPTING ENVIRONMENT.”***

Our daughter received psycho-educational testing when she was six. She was found to be a gifted learner, though not the standard kind we read about in the media, as she had some variation in her learning strengths and weaknesses. She is now 11 and the intervening time has been marked with frustration (and occasionally heartache) with Vancouver’s private school system for gifted learners. With heartfelt thanks to Roger Brunson and Kristin Harbut and the entire staff at Magnussen, our story has a happier ending than we ever thought possible.

Before we found Magnussen, we were beginning to despair of ever finding a school that was able or willing to implement the specific recommendations of our testing psychologist, despite claims made of gifted expertise and individualization. In our experience, the other schools are surprisingly unfamiliar with the research of the last 20 years on what works best for these children (the Lower Mainland in general seems to lag inexplicably behind the times). Despite an extensive body of literature on these kids, we were repeatedly confronted with outdated ways of thinking about giftedness that adhered tightly to the stereotypes.

Having tried all of the other schools, we have found that Magnussen is the only school in Vancouver that genuinely understands and nurtures the talents of gifted learners, especially the majority who don’t fit the gifted stereotype. Magnussen combines innovation, depth of knowledge and genuine vision with a deep caring for children in all their different varieties. Some gifted programs clearly value the high achievers over the children with high potential. At Magnussen, all the children are valued and the staff works diligently to unlock the potential of each and every one.

While many other schools for gifted learners tend to take standard public school material and simply pile on more and more of it, the teachers at Magnussen excel at presenting genuinely interesting, intellectually advanced material in a way that the children can assimilate and understand. From the study of Shakespeare to hands-on high school level science, to an innovative approach to math, to writer’s festival field trips and the enriched art program, in so many ways Magnussen has kept our daughter wonderfully engaged and interested.

Our testing psychologist led us to understand that non-standard gifted children thrive best emotionally when the emphasis is placed on the child's gifts and strengths. In practice we found that, if a school is to accomplish this, the teachers must be able to carefully observe each child and to individualize their programs. We are so delighted to have found Magnussen because it is the first school our daughter has attended that actually does this, and we are overjoyed to see what a difference it has made in our daughter's happiness and self-confidence. This confidence has extended itself to her motivation to work and as a result her grades have never been higher.

The students at Magnussen are valued for who they are, not just for what they can do. The teachers and administration create a truly exceptionally warm, friendly, nurturing, accepting environment. Like many gifted children, our daughter is very sensitive and an emotional learner, and the atmosphere they strive to create is just right for her. I believe that Magnussen feels to her like her family away from home. I have never seen her so enthusiastic to go to school every day, and in such a good mood when she comes home. Magnussen also does an outstanding job of encouraging positive peer relations.

We have been at Magnussen for nearly a full school year, and we've been so impressed with the way they are supporting her for her transition to high school, in one more year. They've been so attentive to her passions and talents. The overwhelming feeling is of how much they care about her and about setting her on the right life's path. I can't thank them enough for how much they've gone above and beyond. My only regret is that we didn't find them sooner.

*- Felicity Estrin, Magnussen parent*

***“I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR A CHILD WHO MARCHES TO THE BEAT OF HIS OWN DRUM.”***

Magnussen is a community where every child's opinion matters; where idiosyncrasies are not just tolerated, but celebrated. Learning tends to be varied in form and content, innovative, and open to interpretation. The teachers bring humour, faith and enjoyment to the classroom. I can't think of a better environment for a child who “marches to the beat of his own drum”.

*- Patti Drobot, Magnussen parent*



**“THE TEACHING APPROACH SIMPLY WORKS. WE ARE  
VERY HAPPY WITH MAGNUSSEN!”**

Our son hated getting up in the mornings, and going to school was a nightmare. He was bored and underperformed at school. After getting him assessed by an educational psychologist, we discovered that he not only had a learning disability, but he was gifted as well. His school was not able to accommodate such a “twice exceptional” learner. We tested a few schools in the Lower Mainland. After his second test day at Magnussen, he was sold. What a difference! He likes going to school; he likes to learn. The teachers at Magnussen are outstanding. The teaching approach simply works. We are very happy with Magnussen!

***- Drs. Petra and Jens Dilling, Magnussen parents***



eaton arrowsmith  
adults

**“FROM WHEN A WAS A VERY SMALL CHILD I ALWAYS SAID THAT HE WAS INTELLIGENT, BUT IT WAS LOCKED UP INSIDE HIS HEAD AND WE JUST HAD TO FIND A WAY TO UNLOCK IT. WELL, YOU ARE UNLOCKING IT NOW!”**

I just want to say a huge thank you for everything you and Teresa are doing for A. What you said to me yesterday was wonderful and really reinforces what we are doing here. Since the moment I saw the 60 Minutes documentary on your school, I knew this was something that had the potential to change his life. But I have not dared to hope that it would actually work!

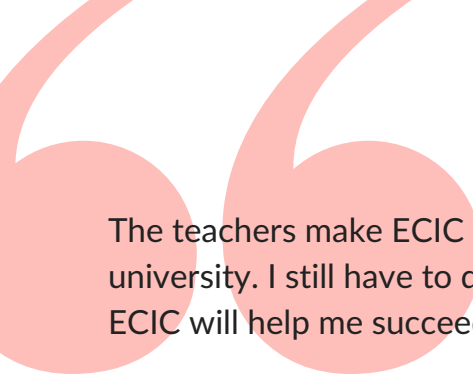
I know we are in the very early stages, but we are all seeing changes in him. Some of what I'm seeing is maybe wishful thinking, but he surprises me more and more with little things I know he's never done before.

For example, he messaged me on his way to school to ask what I'd like to do for mother's day. This has NEVER happened before. He would barely acknowledge that there was a mother's day before coming to ECIC. He would obviously go along with whatever the rest of the family was doing, but never take the initiative to ask me what I'd like to do. It is so exciting to see these things I never thought would ever happen to him.

It's very exciting for us to see him start to blossom. From when A was a very small child I always said that he was intelligent, but it was locked up inside his head and we just had to find a way to unlock it. Well, you are unlocking it now!

I know it's a joint effort - a combination of Barbara's wonderful program, you and Teresa's encouragement and teaching, and me back here keeping him fed and happy. We really landed on our feet when we decided to come to West Vancouver. We are committed to staying here as we feel he's comfortable and happy with you.

**- Janie Gillies, ECIC parent**



The teachers make ECIC a positive place to work. My goals for the future are to attend university. I still have to decide what I want to study, but I hope that the work I have done at ECIC will help me succeed.

**- Olivia Zawadiuk, ECIC student**

My overall experience has been very good. The teachers are supportive, hard working and there for everyone. On harder days, they are very supportive and push you along. I look forward to going home to Australia and being able to do things that I wasn't able to do before ECIC.

**- Andrew, ECIC student**

I really like the teachers because they are awesome and always help you when you struggle with your exercises. The school is a very safe and positive place to be because it's small and we all have learning disabilities, so we're not ashamed of each other. Before ECIC, I didn't feel like I was ready to start college, but now I feel more confident in myself.

**- Yodit Phifer-Houseman, ECIC student**

I never used to understand life or what it meant. But since I have been doing this most amazing program, I love my life so much. This program is so amazing - the way it changes your life and helps open your eyes to the important things. Now I can dream again and know that one of my many dreams will come true!

**- Arlo Rose, ECIC student**

I have had a great experience at ECIC over the past three years. The teachers have been helpful. I have also gained a lot of knowledge. The future will be easier for me now.

**- Max, ECIC student**



## VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

- Manager and Cognitive Instructor, Adriene Pratt, introduces viewers to the Eaton Cognitive Improvement Centre in West Vancouver. Several students also explain what the Arrowsmith Program has done for them.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Students talk about how ECIC and the Arrowsmith Program have helped them change their brains.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Caroline, a student at the Eaton Cognitive Improvement Centre, explains why she loves the teachers and the community at the centre.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- Kees, an ECIC student, talks about how he found out about the centre and how the Arrowsmith Program is helping him achieve his goals.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- ECIC student Elliot explains how the Arrowsmith Program has helped him find a love of learning.  
Click [here](#) to watch the video.