

Patchogue-Medford PTA Council  
241 South Ocean Avenue  
Patchogue, NY 11772

Ms. Carol Brown  
Eastern Suffolk BOCES  
201 Sunrise Highway  
Patchogue, NY 11772

Dear Carol,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Denis Belliveau and his remarkable program "In the Footsteps of Marco Polo". The story he tells of the adventure he and Francis O'Donnell lived is truly amazing and inspirational. As Arts-in-Education Chairman for Suffolk Region PTA and Patchogue-Medford PTA Council's Cultural Arts Co-Chairman, I have seen many programs and presentations and this was by far the most memorable.

I heard him speak at the 2009 New York State PTA Convention. Honestly, I arrived late to the main session where he was a featured speaker and missed the pictures he had shown but was so impressed with the motivational way he communicated and the story he told that I rearranged my schedule to attend his workshop. It was the best decision I could have made as the short movie he showed was enthralling. I bought the beautiful book and couldn't wait to get home to watch the entire film which airs on WLIW. I made everyone I know set their DVR's and they all called to thank me after watching the film!

Patchogue-Medford PTA Council asked Denis to come into our ninth grade Social Studies classes to coincide with when they would be learning about Marco Polo and the Silk Road to China. Viewing the Emmy nominated film first provides an enriching experience alone, but coupled with Denis' charismatic personality and ability to relate the tales of his adventures make this an unforgettable experience.

This program works on so many levels, not just in relation to history and Marco Polo, but as an inspirational story of courage. These fascinating men set their mind to a seemingly impossible goal and though they were met with insurmountable obstacles they worked hard together to find a way to realize their dreams. Amazing!! I highly recommend this for inclusion in Eastern Suffolk BOCES and encourage you to attend one of Denis' presentations soon. You will call to thank me too!

Best regards,

Cindy

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