



Local Teacher in the Spotlight

Janice McSpadden of Hamilton Elementary

Each year, Cy-Fair ISD chooses among the best of the best at each school and honors those teachers with a special gala, a plaque, and a glossy 11x14 picture hanging at the Instructional Support Center. It's the highest honor among teachers in the district, and every teacher dreams of one day hearing their name called.

A Passion for the Job

Janice McSpadden, a fourth grade teacher at Hamilton Elementary, is one such teacher. She's Hamilton Elementary's winner this year - one visit to her classroom and it's easy to see why. "Great things are quietly happening in Mrs. McSpadden's room. She is a teacher who loves her job, the children, and our school. Although she has many successful years of teaching under her belt, Janice is always excited to learn new strategies," says Catherine Bauer, principal. "She is the type of teacher I would want for my own child, and I am proud to have her represent the exceptional type of staff we have here at Hamilton Elementary."



4th Grade teacher Mrs. McSpadden having fun with some of her students at Field Day



Sharing Her Love of Learning

Janice is a native Houstonian who graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University, and has taught since 1975. She originally taught younger grades, but started teaching older grades because she enjoyed the new curriculum and the older students could appreciate her jokes. Currently, she teaches 4th grade Science. "I have a love of learning. I like the challenge of passing that love on to students," she says. "It's rewarding. Every day is different. It's never boring, and the students make me smile."

Unique Teaching Style

Even Janice's students would agree she has definitely earned her way to being named spotlight teacher. Dean Aramburu, a student of hers when he was in 3rd and 4th grades, recalls fond memories of her. "Mrs. McSpadden's teaching style isn't like any other teacher I have ever had. She always found a way to make the lesson fun. I remember her often saying 'There is a method to my madness.' Her wild stories, tricks, jokes, and labs helped us learn and made it fun." He further explains that she really seemed to care about them, not just their performance in her class. "She cared about what we had to say and didn't stop teaching until we understood. Sometimes we thought she just might follow us right on the bus!"



Parents also have faith in Janice's abilities. One parent, Sherri Smith, whose son was in Janice's class last year, says, "I couldn't have asked for a better fit for my son. She cared about him as a person and knew him on an individual level, but she was still firm when he needed it. She would always push him to his full potential." **CFM**

ANGELA BICKFORD is the editor of Cy-Fair magazine and a former CFISD teacher. She knows how hard teachers work and that whether or not they earn a spotlight award, they certainly deserve one.

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Congratulations CFISD Spotlight Teachers

Below is a list of Cy-Fair's Spotlight Teachers for 2007-2008, and each has earned their way into the hearts of the students they teach.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A. Robison
Adam
André
Ault
Bane
Bang
Birkes
Black
Copeland
Danish
Duryea
Emmott
Farney
Fiest
Francone
Frazier
Gleason
Hairgrove
Hamilton
Hancock
Holbrook
Holmsley
Horne
Jowell
Keith
Kirk
Lamkin
Lee

Kathy Pena
Dawn Tryon
DeAnn H. Bennett
Melissa Morrow
Melanie Clark
Taara Moore
Carrie McCollister
Kim Hawkins
Melissa Dickey
Jill Johnson
Julia A. Todd
Christina Stout
Amy Abramowitz
Laurie Worchesik
Mary Marsh
Shannon Garton
Patti Arechiga
Patricia Myers
Janice McSpadden
Donna Woods
Sherry A. Johnson
Cathi Lucy
Tayaka Daniels
Hank Brennan
Pam Michaelis
Yanine Zambrano
Connie Roberson
Traci L. Tousant

Lieder
Lowery
Matzke
McFee
Metcalf
Millsap
Moore
Owens
Post
Postma
Reed
Sampson
Sheridan
Tipps
Walker
Warner
Willbern
Wilson
Yeager

Carol Goldapp
Stacey Gaecke
Vickey Morgan
Jeanna Peña, M.Ed.
Terri Womack
Susan Fennis
Krista Dankert
Tiffany Holomon
Thao Tran Nguyen
Kristie Lambert
Debbie Winkelmann
Karen Stewart
Kelly Strauss
Heather Wilde
Lisa White
Kimberly Birkelbach
Tresa Weisz
Sheila Wratford
Alane Williams

Goodson
Hamilton Middle
Hopper
Kahla
Labay
Spillane
Thornton
Truitt
Watkins

Donna Christy
Johnnetta (Pat) Huff
Dana Palmer
Elissa Wells
Amy Moore
Laura LaBounty
Kandace Kitchen
Cathryn Fellenz
Monte Bingham

HIGH SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair
Cypress Creek
Cypress Falls
Cypress Ridge
Cypress Springs
Cypress Woods
Jersey Village
Langham Creek

Marilyn Rasmussen
Anita Marshall
Kirk Eaton
Stephanie Lyle
Amy Hawkins
Anton Truong
Margie Comstock
Frederick Young, Jr.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Aragon
Arnold
Bleyl
Campbell
Cook
Dean

Andrea E. Barnes
Sandra Silvey
Lisa Watson
Amanda Garrett
Cathy Briggs
Vicky Vest

SPECIAL PROGRAM FACILITIES

ALC
ABC
Carlton Center
Windfern High
School

Nydia Aguero García
William (Coach) Patterson
Lisa Fasan

Marla Meehan



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