

Guy Frangipane

Drake Elementary, Strongsville, OH

Primary Elementary Education

3rd Grade

Disney
Teacher Awards

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY IN TEACHING

2005 Honorees



Students donate cans to return the favor when the fire dept. visits for a safety lesson.

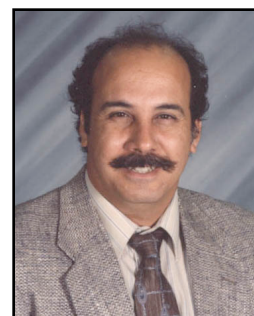
“I’ve tried to make my classroom a place children want to be. It is a safe room, where fear of the teacher isn’t the motivator. It’s a place where on any given day there may be a variety of active, interesting lessons and if you miss the day you probably missed something good.

It’s a place where textbooks and papers work together with pretzels and pop cans during hands-on lessons. There might be some sneaky teaching going on, where you pick up something about math or chemistry during a reading lesson. When the word ‘acre’ comes up in a story, we go outside with our 200-foot measuring tape to find out what an acre is. The children volunteer and physically become corners of the acre. The students learn to use an important measuring tool, reinforce the concept of ‘feet’, lay the groundwork for measuring area in ‘square units’...but if anyone asks, we are doing a reading vocabulary lesson!”

“My lessons *must* have meaning for my students... And if it can be fun, all the better. I’ll use their names and interests in creating story problems in math. We use money and newspaper ads when refining our adding and subtracting skills. The day we multiply by six is the day a tower of Pepsi 6-packs reaches to the ceiling... my students are the main reporters for our school newspaper. They have fun covering the news, scheduling interviews, writing notes, and developing articles from what they’ve prepared.”— *Guy Frangipane*

“When my oldest daughter entered kindergarten in the fall of 1986, I began to hear from friends, parents and older students, ‘wait until you get into 3rd grade. Hope you get Mr. Frangipane. He is awesome.’ Lucky for us, our daughter had him for science class. As my middle daughter entered 3rd grade in 1996, she was lucky too! Today she is in the 11th grade and still holds him in high regards and comments on just what a great teacher and influence on her he was. She always had fun in class and it made the hard work seem easier. When they studied Thomas Edison, Mr. Frangipane had students re-enact some of the experiments Edison did as a youth. They created a timeline of inventions by him and examined their impact on the world... Our daughter developed her interest in science and math because of his devotion and style of teaching.”

— *Gail Middleton, parent of current and former students*



Other Highlights:

Former Drake Elementary School PTA President

Headed PTA adult Monday Night basketball (1979-1999)

Wrote the city’s hands-on science program for 3rd grade and in-serviced local teachers to implement it

Directed numerous “Pizza and Puzzles” Nights at Drake Elem., known elsewhere as “Family Math Nights”

“Making the Grade” Nominee, News Channel Five, WEWS, Cleveland, OH (2002)

Contributed English writing rubrics to Baldwin-Wallace College Dept. of Education

Participant in ILILE Seminar 2003, to coordinate 3rd grade curricular areas with library objectives. Selected lessons posted at <http://ims.ode.state.oh.us/ODE/IMS/Lessons>

Years Teaching: 28

Average Class Size: 28

Classes Taught Per Day: 6

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 12

School Type: Public, Suburban

Type of Class: Self-contained