

# Pablo Gaeta

Valerio Street Elementary, Van Nuys, CA

Primary Elementary Education

3rd Grade



2005 Honorees



“One of the questions I get most often from both new and seasoned teachers is: How do you find the time to do all of this *extra* stuff? In the last few years, due to a higher emphasis on assessment and

accountability in the classroom, I have had to become *more* creative just to *stay* creative... Primarily, I use three key strategies that I have named: *thematic integration*, *meta-planning*, and *collective collaboration*. In thematic integration, a teacher organizes the standards-based curriculum according to logical groupings...like mini-themes. Currently, I am using a Jedi Academy theme in my classroom. The classroom environment reflects this theme and helps to promote learning and motivation. The logical groupings of each subject into mini-themes that are taught during the year allow my students a multitude of opportunities to make learning connections. Rather than teaching subjects in a disjointed manner, students realize that there are commonalities between different disciplines.”

“Meta-planning is the process of making sure that each lesson or activity in the classroom includes a component that is at each student’s instructional level.”

“Collective collaboration is a two-fold process. First the teacher finds out what needs to be taught, and then collects raw data and materials to teach the skills... I strongly feel that I owe it to my students to continue to find new and engaging ways to challenge myself - and them- to become better critical thinkers.” – *Pablo Gaeta*

“In our meetings with Mr. Gaeta, I was impressed with his love for teaching and how all the kids in his class and their parents were drawn to his high standards of learning. He not only raised my daughter’s expectations, but mine as well... Now my daughter talks about being a teacher herself.

She loves learning and devours any books she can get her hands on. As a fourth grader, she convinced me to get two turtles so that she could chart and compare their growth rates. All this because of the science projects Mr. Gaeta conducted with his students in third grade. How can a parent argue with that?”

– *Mauricio Melendez, parent of former student*



## Other Highlights:

Oracle Foundation Grant Recipient to furnish a computer for every child in my classroom

Teaching Tolerance Grant Recipient to provide students with opportunities to appreciate cultural diversity

Polaroid Corporation Grant Recipient to enhance ESL instruction

Riordan Reading Grant Recipient to provide recreational books for students

Video in the Classroom Awards sponsored by KLCS-TV, 2002-2003 – Best Professional Development Video  
2003-2004 – Best Script & Best Overall Elementary Video

Academic Achievement Leadership Team Member

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Member

Taught Adaptive Computers for Developmentally-Challenged Adults (ARC Program)

Years Teaching: 6

Average Class Size: 20

Classes Taught Per Day: n/a

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 96

School Type: Public, Large City

Type of Class: Self-contained