

Disney Teacher Awards

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY IN TEACHING

2006 HONOREE

Meg Greiner

Independence Elementary School, Independence, OR
Wellness and Sports Education • K-4th Grade



Years Teaching: 18

Average Class Size: 26

Classes Taught Per Day: 11

School's % of ESL Students: 30%

School Type: Public, Rural

Type of Class: Inclusion

"At precisely 8:30 a.m. each school day, 315 bright-eyed elementary school children rush into the gymnasium from the playground and cafeteria, screaming and yelling, eager to begin their day. 'I like to move it, move it,' resonates on the sound system while students, staff, and parents find their self-space and begin to move together like a well-oiled machine. All eyes are glued on the elevated platform where their physical education teacher is leading them through their paces. With her headset in place, she is welcoming them to another day at school with smiles and a genuine, 'Welcome back, it's great to see your smiling faces.' This is TEAM Time (Together Everyone Achieves More), program that I created nine years ago that incorporates music, movement, dance, stretching, and team building activities that help energize and connect students, staff, and parents. With the population of my school, it is imperative that my students see that they are part of a larger community. Through TEAM Time and my expanded education program, students are exposed to activities and ideas that stretch further than the walls of our school. It is my hope that they will strive to explore their world further and to live their lives with exuberance, empathy, and wonder."



"Personally and professionally, I lead by example. I connect community and physical education by organizing special events and inviting speakers and performers, including an Olympian, Indian elder drummers, jugglers, a Mexican Mariachi band, and a performer from Cirque Du Soleil. Some events include the IES Olympics, Family Fiesta Night, and Physical Education Family Nights. As Grand Marshall of the Frontier Days Parade, I had the opportunity to showcase my students and physical education, as they unicycled or rode on the school float where they juggled and danced."

"Meg loves 'her' children and she has a true passion for teaching physical education. She promotes fitness for a lifetime, competent movers, self-management, and social skills. Her students apply themselves to learning in a confident, competent way. Meg believes this confidence and competence spills over into other areas of the school and has helped Independence Elementary School achieve an 'exceptional' rating on the NCLB Report Card. Simply put, Meg is an exemplary educator."

— Dr. Joseph E. Hunter, superintendent,
Central School District 13J

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

USA Today All-Star Teacher Team (2005) • EduK Teaching Through Movement Award (2005) • National Association for Sport and Physical Education National Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Recipient (2005) • Honorary Life Membership Award Recipient - Oregon Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (2004) • Oregon Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award (2004) • Teacher of the Year - Central School District Elementary (2002) • Pioneer Award (2001) • Distinguished Teacher Award - Corvallis School District (1994)