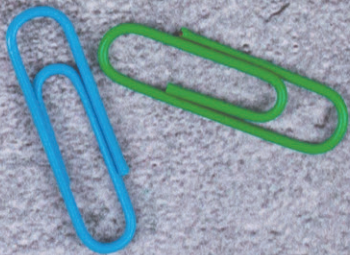


A supplement of the
Journal Review

TEACHER *of the* **MONTH**

2022-2023
Winners



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Stephanie Timmons

New Market Elementary School



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

From an early age, I always wanted to be a teacher. I had the best teachers throughout elementary school and I wanted to be just like them. I also wanted to help children in some way. Becoming a teacher allowed me to help 20 plus children every year.

2. Who was my favorite teacher?

It's hard to just choose one. I had so many great teachers growing up. I would say Donna Coats was my favorite teacher in elementary school. I was lucky enough to have her in second and fourth grade. My favorite high school teachers were Marci Huckstep, Karen Froedge and Ruth Hallett.

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

It was a lot harder than I expected, but I had wonderful support from an amazing staff.

4. What is your favorite part about teaching?

Creating a class family every year. Falling in love with my students and being loved in return. Watching them grow. In kindergarten, you can really see the growth.

5. How has your job as a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

In almost every way. The thing that stands out the most for me is the lack of creativity. So much of the curriculum comes with a script. I miss being more creative.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

I like my bowl of Tootsie Rolls. If I catch the kids doing something good. I give them a Tootsie Roll and say, "I like the way you roll." They love this and it helps me motivate positive behavior.

7. Special projects or activities my students have participated in.

We love watching chicks hatch, going to the pumpkin patch, taking virtual trips to Hawaii, celebrating Christmas around the world, erupting volcanoes and going on dinosaur digs.

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher on a project or activity.

I love working with other teachers. It makes teaching so much more fun. Mrs. JeneAnne Pendleton and I always planned the best virtual trip to Hawaii. We pretended to board an airplane, flew to the island, read books on the beach, collected shells, learned to hula dance, wrote post-cards home and flew back

home all in one day. The kids were always so engaged that many really thought they had visited the island.

9. One of the funniest stories that I can share about my students.

Kindergarteners make me giggle often. They are so innocent. I asked my students who the main character in the book was. One little boy replied, "It was the girl with the dots." I had to think about it for a second, then I realized he was talking about her freckles.



10. What is your best piece of advice for aspiring teachers?

You have to love teaching and love children. It is so much more work than you can ever imagine. You have to be organized and efficient. Most importantly, you must find a balance between work and home. We need good teachers, so if your heart is pulling you to become a teacher, do it!

Congratulations on winning Teacher of the Month!

Amanda Clark

Pleasant Hill Elementary School



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

Teaching has, for as long as I can remember, been the career path I wanted to pursue. As I grew older I could see my hopes being confirmed in the joy I found in teaching, being with children, helping them navigate their paths, and seeing the intrinsic rewards that came naturally because of those things.

2. Who was my favorite teacher?

I would say I have two favorite teachers. One that comes from the earlier years of my learning: Mrs. Roberts, my first grade teacher. She was so structured and consistent that I felt comfortable and I always had a sense of “knowing” every time I walked into her room ... I didn’t have to question what she expected of me. And, to this day, I feel as though I run a classroom much like that with my own students.

The second teacher that made an impact on my life was on of

my college professor’s at Franklin: Alice Heikens, a professor of biology. I guess coming into her course I didn’t expect to have much meaning in my area of study, but what I found was an understanding of the love of teaching, which

she definitely had/has! I “bought into” the things I was being taught because I could sense the love and devotion she had for the subject area. That “a-ha” made me realize that I had to always be sure the love and devotion I have for teaching comes through in my classroom. My kids have to “buy into” me and know I am there for the right reasons!

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

My first teaching experience was back-to-back maternity leave positions. The first was to start the year in kindergarten and the second was to wrap up the year in fifth grade. Now, being flexible is what teaching is all about, but I will say my mindset did have to make a major shift. Despite the big change, I actually enjoyed both groups that year and tried to adjust without skipping a beat.

4. What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is developing relationships and bonds with my students... like I stated before, if they know I’m here for the right reasons they will open up, WANT to please/do well, and that’s when you have the most success in the classroom. I also LOVE getting to know my kids, their hobbies, their favorites, or things we have in common. It’s much like that “insta-glue”... when I make a connection or find common ground

with my kiddos, it’s like it NEVER leaves. The moment I see a picture of a former student, even one from 18 years ago I can typically remember something special or unique about them. Maybe not their first and last name (ha ha), but something that stuck with me/ my heart.

5. How has your job as a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

Teaching is full of changes ... technology, of course, is way more utilized on a daily basis. I have al-



ways loved making my own anchor charts ... markers ... drawing ... etc., but now I create those along side of daily, weekly, and monthly/ unit-based google slides with links, movable pieces, craft examples, videos, etc. Good changes with a little of my own creativity, but much different that my first years.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

My favorite object would have to be my sizable collection of markers and writing utensils! I love sharpies, PaperMates, Mr. Sketch, mechanical pencils, and much

more ... I just love writing and doodling post-its to the kids, making anchor charts, you name it.

7. Special projects or activities my students have participated in.

Over the years I have done and tried so many things ... I love doing seasonal units or activities so some things include: pumpkin investigations, making our own applesauce, "tasting of the greens," pen pals with my sister — a fellow teacher in Putnam County, pen pals (with my fifth graders) with students from Taiwan, where I stayed for a month in 2008, store/bank, each year we publish a book parents/families can buy, plant growing, leaf sketching/researching, weekly student "spotlights," so many make-and-take crafts,

science experiments and more.

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher on a project or activity.

I'd have to say I couldn't succeed without collaboration. My teaching partner/s are like an extension of myself. We use pacing guides and corporation expectations to plan, organize, make, build, buy, create ... I have been on the creative side of making slides with daily objectives, creating links, motivating "hooks" for the kids. I've been on the paperwork end of collaboration, finding data, organizing materials, making lists, making charts, creating best-practices for groups. I've also been on the listening and executing side of things, letting

my colleagues teach me and show me what has worked, what could be changed, how things work, and what's next. I definitely think collaboration is key to teaching. If you can't manage the workload with your colleagues (on a daily basis) you will struggle as a teacher because it'll be extremely difficult and overwhelming.

9. One of the funniest stories that I can share about my students.

Wow ... this is probably one of the hardest to pick. Most of the funniest stories are those that couldn't be publicly shared ... either because of content or the parents would be mortified

I've had: little poop droplets to follow down the path to find the culprit.

I've had kids share family things like: "yeah ... my dad is so funny, he wears his underwear around the house," or "my mommy is not having a baby, I think she just ate too much," and more countless things

10. What is your best piece of advice for aspiring teachers?

The best advice I could give an aspiring educator is: when you face disrespect, misbehavior, lack of enthusiasm, meanness, let downs, heartbreak, tears, we (teachers) are the believers. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and because of our guidance we are able to help students through the hills and valleys. This, itself, is one of life's greatest forms of optimism and hope.



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Glenna Livesay

New Market Elementary School



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

There was an opening for a preschool teacher in Waveland. I have four children and the oldest was in school, so I wanted my three sons to attend preschool before Kindergarten. I decided to teach the program and thoroughly loved it! I knew that teaching was my passion and was what I wanted to do after staying home with my children.

2. Who was my favorite teacher?

Gwen Hinshaw, second grade, Waveland Elementary

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

I taught special education in grades K-6 and had 35 students at Rockville Elementary. I also was taking classes to complete a mild mentally disability endorsement. I helped coach the Special Olym-

pics team. They loved skiing at French Lick, skating and bowling. It was a wonderful experience.

4. What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part is seeing the children light up when they learn something new and gain confidence in themselves. You develop a special bond with each student and they feel important, loved and secure. They are always a part of your heart.

5. How has your job as a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

Technology plays a huge role in the classroom than when I first started teaching.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

My reading corner has a rocking chair and I love to dress up wearing different hats or costumes to read to the children using various voices. They love it!

7. Special projects or activities my students have participated

in.

Each year, they learn about Native American symbols and we make a large classroom tepee and dress up as Native Americans for our annual Kindergarten Feast, they make gingerbread cookies and we try to find the missing cookie in the school, they make and erupt volcanoes, puppet shows, cooking projects such as applesauce, donuts, milkshakes, edible playdough, holiday projects, artwork and various science experiments.

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher on a project or activity.

I collaborated with the speech teacher on a rhyming lesson. We made puppets and the kiddos put on a skit.

9. One of the funniest stories that I can share about my students.

I was leaving school with my



three granddaughters and walked by the after school program. Several kiddos yelled "Ms. Livesay" and ran up and gave me hugs. My granddaughter, Ava, says, "Boy Nana, you are really famous."

10. What is your best piece of advice for aspiring teachers?

Be patient and kind. Take the time to develop a relationship with each child. Be loving, funny, and provide a positive, caring environment.

Congratulations on winning Teacher of the Month!

Kayla Barsotti

New Market Elementary School



December
2022

1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

I have loved working with and being around children since I was young.

2. Who was my favorite teacher?

Mrs. Huckstep and Mrs. Rosentreter.

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

How exciting it was, yet there was so much more I wanted to do and learn.

4. What is your favorite part about teaching?

That every day is different. You never know what a child is going to say, do or learn. Watching them progress is pretty amazing.

5. How has your job as a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

Technology.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

Our job chart. The children or teachers do not survive without it. They take their jobs very seriously.

7. Special projects or activities my students have participated in.

Nursery Rhyme Olympics, Thanksgiving Feast.

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher on a project or activity.

Not answered.

9. One of the funniest stories that I can share about my students.

This year a child brought me a large bottle of hot sauce and nail clippers as a Christmas gift. Turns out it was for his dad, but it made me laugh.

10. What is your best piece of advice for aspiring teachers?

Be fun and have fun.



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Julia Page

New Market Elementary School



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

I always loved school, especially my second grade year. My teacher made learning so much fun. I decided to do cadet teaching my senior year of high school, and it was with my 2nd grade teacher. She made learning so fun all those years earlier. It was fun working beside her and seeing all the things she still did with the students that I remembered her doing with my class. It made me want to be a teacher that the students loved and had good memories with.

2. Who was my favorite teacher?

Mrs. Isenberg, my second grade teacher.

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

My first teaching job was in Fayetteville, North Carolina, at Bill Hefner Elementary school. I had 22 third graders, and they were a great group of students to have. They taught me a lot during that

year about patience.

4. What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is when the “light bulb goes off.” It’s so fun to see my students grow and learn over the school year, and that they

are so excited when they finally understand it.

5. How has your job as a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

The job has changed quite a bit throughout the years. There is definitely more technology involved, but in the end students are still the same. They all are here to learn and grow.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

My favorite object in my classroom is not necessarily an object but an area in my classroom. I have an area that is called “The Pit.” I have steps where the kids can come sit and listen to me read stories to them. I have bean bags and pillows that they can use around the room too.

7. Special projects or activities my students have participated in.

Our school does a fundraiser

every year called Race for Education. To celebrate the money raised the students get to run around a track listening to music. They try and get as many laps as they can. They have popsicles at the end. The students really enjoy it.

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher on a project or activity.

Our team collaborates a lot throughout the school year, we help each other with all subject areas. Projects we’ve been working on together are Create2Think science projects every six weeks. They are STEM based projects. Its fun watching the students create and think of how to solve the different problems.

9. One of the funniest stories that I can share about my students.

One day, at the beginning of the school year, my kindergarteners were working on something. I overheard one of them say “are we almost done with this? I’m about over it.” I didn’t sign up to be here. My dad signed me up. It was pretty



funny. I couldn’t help but laugh.

10. What is your best piece of advice for aspiring teachers?

My best piece of advice for an aspiring teacher is give yourself grace in those first few years. It’s always great to be flexible, open minded, and know that you’re going to make mistakes, but be willing to learn from them. Get to know your students. Be creative and fun, but stern and strict at the same time.

Congratulations on winning Teacher of the Month!

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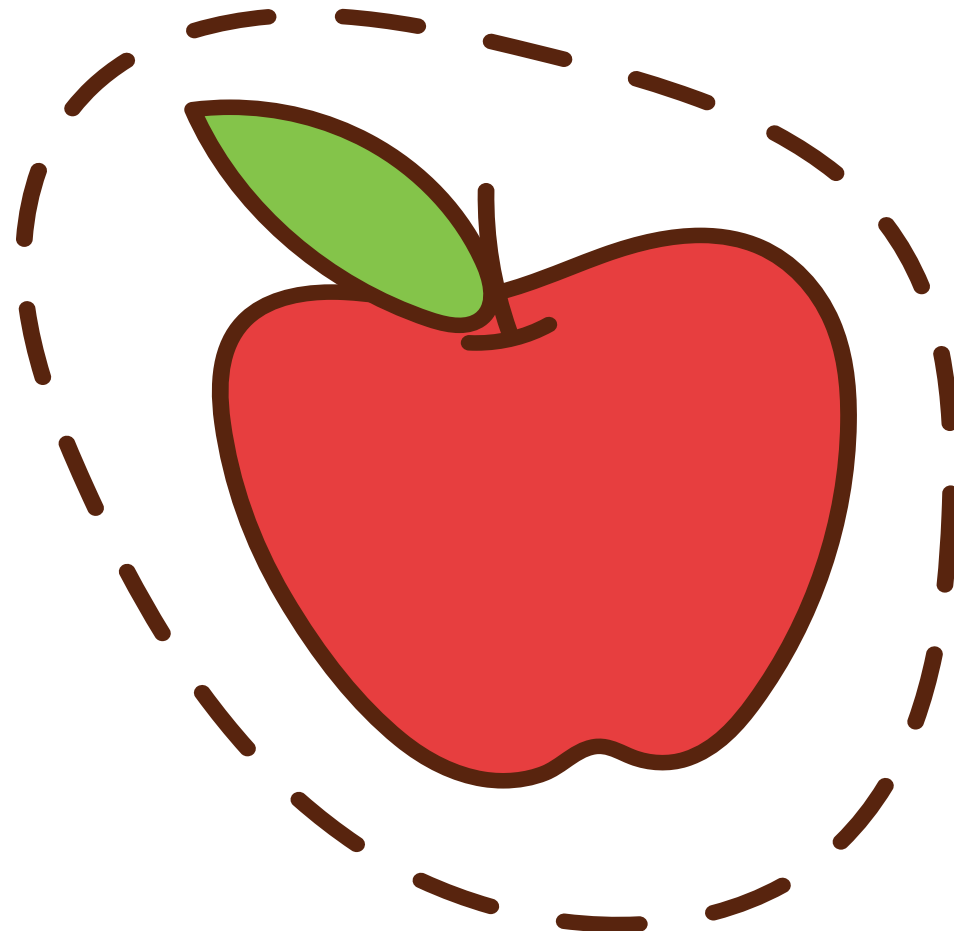
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Cheryl Moody

New Market Elementary

1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

I was personally inspired to become a teacher during my senior year of high school when I enrolled in the 'Cadet Teaching' program. During this time I found out that I had a love of teaching and helping students learn.

2. Who was my favorite teacher?

My favorite teacher when I was in school was my 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Dee Isenberg, at Van Buren Elementary.

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

My first teaching job was filling in for a maternity leave, for a 1st grade teacher, second semester, in 1993. I remember having 14 of the sweetest and smartest students that loved story time.

4. What is your favorite part about teaching?

The best part of teaching is getting to be a part of helping students learn and grow.

5. How has your job as a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

The job of being a teacher has changed during my career in a couple of ways. When I first started teaching there were ½ day kindergarten classes and now there are all day kindergarten classes. Plus, there are now preschoolers that come to school all day.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

One of my favorite objects in my classroom is my Christmas tree. It is decorated with ornaments that have been gifted to me over the years. The students enjoy decorating the tree and asking about all the different ornaments.

7. Special projects or activities my students have participated in.

One of my favorite activities during a school year that our students get to do is go on field trips.

As a classroom teacher over the years I've taken students to the Indianapolis Zoo, Conner

Prairie, The Indy 500, The Children's Museum, Camp Tecumseh, an Indian's Game, Billy Creek Village, Columbia Park, Wolf Park, The Lew

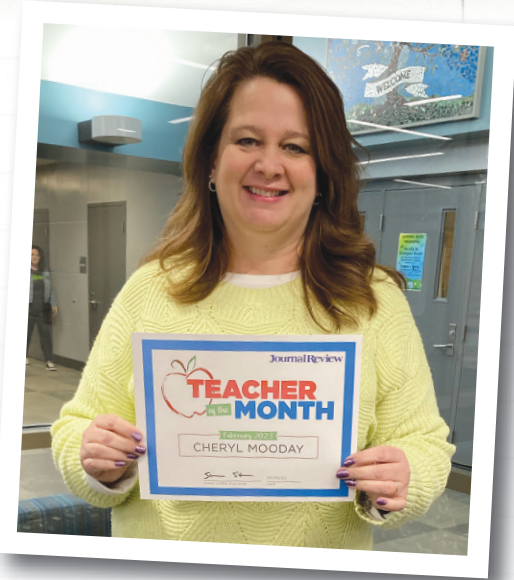
Wallace, Rotary Jail, Carnegie Museum, The Lane House, plays in Indy and Lafayette. One year we went to the local movie theater to watch "Charlotte's Web."

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher on a project or activity.

Collaborating with teachers over the years for a lesson or activity is always fun especially during the holidays. One of the activities we used to do was around Thanksgiving. The students would submit a recipe with a favorite food that their family made during the holidays. These would be put into a class recipe book and given as gifts to parents for Christmas. The students would also get to bring in their favorite dish to share.

9. One of the funniest stories that I can share about my students.

One of the cutest stories I can share about a student is the time there was a group of young third graders discussing if the Tooth Fairy was real or not. One little boy piped in and informed



everyone that as far as he was concerned the Tooth Fairy was real, because he saw where they made a movie about it. Everyone agreed and the debate was over.

10. What is your best piece of advice for aspiring teachers?

Some of the best advice I can give is try to be organized, be flexible, remember to breathe, have fun with your students, listen, and never stop learning.

Congratulations on winning Teacher of the Month!



Lisa Chadd

New Market Elementary

1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

After high school graduation, I worked at a summer school program with first, second and third grade students. I was a teaching assistant with Mrs. Vicki Switzer. She did such an amazing job with the students and encouraged me to become a teacher. I learned so much from her.

2. Who was your favorite teacher when you were in school?

My second grade teacher, Mrs. Lawson. She was always so caring and kind with her students. She always had a smile on her face. I had the privilege of substituting for her for three weeks when I graduated from college.

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

Mr. Carty hired me two days before school started. I remember being so nervous about getting ready for the students. I had the sweetest teaching assistant named

Mrs. Pauline McMasters that helped me get my room ready. She was such a blessing that school year. I remember that we both loved Garfield so she helped me with decorations for the classroom.

4. What is your favorite part of teaching?

I love to see students encouraging each other and helping others in the classroom. They also grow so much academically. We become a family and it's hard to see them go.

5. How has the job of a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

Technology is the biggest change for sure. I remember my principal walking around each morning and delivering the announcements by paper. We didn't have computers or emails to check daily. I had a computer science minor in college. However, I have to laugh at how much it has changed over the years. I am highly trained in using a floppy disk drive if needed.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

This one was a tough one to answer but I would have to say my classroom Christmas Tree. I've

saved every ornament that has been given to me. I love to look at the old pictures and ornaments over the years. My class always helps me decorate it every year.

7. What kind of special projects or activities have your students participated in?

We love parties. I like to reward students for working hard in the classroom. We have compliment parties for every 10 compliments earned as a class. We also get individual rewards for working hard, being kind to others, and being a good role model, etc.

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher for a lesson or activity?

We collaborate daily. Our favorite saying at New Market is "Work Smarter, Not Harder." We all have great ideas and it's important to share.

9. What is one of the funniest stories you can share about a student?

My husband, Mr. Chadd, also teaches at New Market. The kids

are always so shocked by this. I did have a student think I was his mom one time. That wasn't so funny for me, but Mr. Chadd thought it was hilarious.

10. What's your best piece of advice for an aspiring educator?

Give yourself grace. I'm still making mistakes after 27 years of teaching. I'm always learning new and better ways to teach every year. Also, build meaningful relationships with your students. They work so much harder for you when they know you care about them and want what is best for them.





Taylor Dyson

Sommer Elementary School

1. What inspired you to be a teacher?

I had so many fantastic teachers through school that led me to find a love in learning and helping others. North Montgomery has a great cadet teaching program working with preschools that really sealed the deal for me.

2. Who was your favorite teacher when you were in school?

My favorite teacher in school, who is also now my boss, was always Mrs. Gephart. But I also had so many phenomenal teachers that really left an impact on my life.

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

I am still at my first teaching job & I am only in my second year, so I remember my first teaching job very well. I remember thinking I had no clue what I was doing

but getting into the flow and creating routines with my kids made it so much easier. My first year class was so great and we learned so much together. I was lucky enough to loop from 4th to fifth grade with them

so they have a very special place in my heart.

4. What is your favorite part of teaching?

My favorite part of teaching are the relationships that I build with my students. I love working with the older students because we can make real life connections and talk about real life situations together. My students have taught me so much about life, the job and myself.

5. How has the job of a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

The job really hasn't changed much in my two years of teaching. I have a lot of great coworkers that have supported and led me to become more confident and comfortable in teaching and have taught me so much about the

profession that I didn't know before I started.

6. What kind of special projects or activities have your students participated in?

This year, our kiddos have been able to visit the Indiana State House, have done virtual field trips, participated in STEM days, had a wonderful music program, and we are visiting Camp Tecumseh soon to participate in the leadership camp!

7. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher for a lesson or activity?

There is so much collaboration that happens every single day with my teaching team. I have been lucky enough to work with four fantastic teachers in my first two years that have taught me so much and guided me in so many ways. There are so many fun lessons that we have planned, but my favorite so far was a novel



study over "Esperanza Rising" where the students learned about human rights and immigrant workers in the 1920s.

8. What's your best piece of advice for an aspiring educator?

Ask questions! You can never ask too many questions or ask for too much help in your first years as you are trying to navigate your way. There is so much information to take in and so much you are going to learn every single day.

Congratulations on winning Teacher of the Month!

Lori Stewart

New Market Elementary School

May
2023

1. What inspired you to be a teacher?

Once I started working in the school system as a cafeteria monitor I discovered I really enjoyed being with the kids and wanted more.

2. Who was your favorite teacher when you were in school?

I grew up in upstate New York and my favorite teacher was Ed Swiecki during my senior year.

3. What do you remember about your first teaching job?

My first teaching job was being a teacher's aide in kindergarten. I absolutely loved working with the littles (young children).

4. What is your favorite part of teaching?

I love watching children grow

and get excited when they learn something. I love the joy on their faces.

5. How has the job of a teacher changed since your first year in the classroom?

Things have gotten a little easier in some aspects with computers, but it also has gotten harder, loving kids and worrying about them all like they were our own. We get anxiety worrying about kids. It can be difficult to sleep sometimes, especially with 20 or more kiddos plus your own family. We get so attached to them like they are our own.

6. Tell me a story about a favorite object in your classroom.

I really enjoy teaching and drawing on the white board.

7. What kind of special projects or activities have your students participated in?

We learned about plants and how to grow things. We had a specialist come in to talk about it and then we went to a greenhouse.

8. Tell me about a time when you collaborated with another teacher for a lesson or activity?

I've never really done that yet, but we have learned songs with the other pre-K class.

9. What is one of the funniest stories you can share about a student?

We got a new student in the classroom and one of our other students told her mom she was helping the new student by wheeling her around in her wheelchair. The mom was so proud and let us know she was, that she was helping. Needless to say the new student wasn't in a wheelchair. We have a toy person in a wheelchair and the student took it and told us she was going to park "the student's name" on the teacher's desk.



10. What's your best piece of advice for an aspiring educator?

Empathize with your students, ask for help if needed, always remember to learn as much as you can about your students home life, treat everyone with kindness and love them like your own, be a great listener, do what is right even if it's not easy, trust your gut, always believe in yourself, be dedicated, be yourself even if you're silly, try to have fun, don't beat yourself up.

Congratulations on winning Teacher of the Month!

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'Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire.'
-W.B. Yeats

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Journal Review

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