

Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District

20 **SPOTLIGHT** 16
HONOREES

Volume XXXI

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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THE SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Spotlight paraeducators and support staff recipients are selected each year by supervisors for their outstanding dedication through their notable work on campus.

Spotlight teachers are selected by campus principals for their outstanding dedication in providing valuable instruction to students in CFISD. Each Spotlight teacher is given recognition for demonstrating one of the following characteristics outlined in the district's *Portrait of a CFISD Teacher*:

Instructional Strategist
Creator of a Student-centered Environment
Positive Role Model
Lifelong Learner
Team Player

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PARAEDUCATOR HONOREES



EILEEN TESSITORE

Moore Elementary School
Special Education

One of the things that amazes us about Ms. T is her energy. She moves from classroom to classroom giving support to teachers, and most importantly the children. The student's faces light up when she walks in the room. Their hands quickly wave her over saying, "Sit by me!" Ms. T's magic begins with a firm, yet loving, disposition that kids respect. She has high expectations, but always rewards students for their hard work. It is an honor to nominate Ms. T; she is a treasure in our eyes. Her dedication, passion, energy and love for children makes her deserving of this amazing award.

- Jana Needham, principal



STEFANI BOLT

Postma Elementary School
Physical Education

Stefani is a paraeducator that gives more than 100 percent. She comes up with the most innovative and creative activities for our students to enjoy. She approaches her job like an expert. Stefani is always willing to try new things for the benefit of our students. She volunteers to help for after-school events and her flexibility and easy-going personality is a perfect fit for our school. She is one of the most talented paraeducators I have ever worked with.

- Kim Freed, principal

SUPPORT STAFF HONOREES



PHILLIP HOFFART

Maintenance Department
Grounds Foreman

Phillip started his employment with CFISD in August 1985 as a groundskeeper and is now serving as the Heavy Equipment Foreman in the grounds department. One of his main responsibilities is to oversee the upkeep of all 86 athletic fields in the district. All of our coaches in CFISD know Phillip and the quality of work he produces. Phillip is a “fix it” man. He always finds a way to get the job done in a professional manner. Phillip is a tremendous asset to the grounds department and to CFISD. In my opinion, you will not find anyone more deserving of this award than Phillip Hoffart.

- Scott LeDoux, supervisor



TODD WEBSTER

Maintenance Department
HVAC Technician

Todd Webster has worked in the HVAC department for six years and is currently responsible for seven schools and multiple support buildings including Berry Center. His service to CFISD goes well beyond the typical eight-hour day, as he is also one of our on-call technicians and is always available for emergencies and after-hours service calls. Todd exemplifies the maintenance center’s motto, “Service Is Our Business.” He truly understands the value of customer service and relations. His commitment to district students and staff is felt on many levels.

- David Tooker, supervisor

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIST

A CFISD teacher who thoughtfully designs learning and assessment activities that present content appropriate for students' age and aptitude and which promote students' actively thinking about the subject.



BRANDON BATCHELOR

Anthony Middle School
World Cultures

Brandon Batchelor, an instructional strategist extraordinaire, is clearly in the spotlight at Anthony Middle School. He finds unique ways to connect content with his students. He is always thinking outside the box, and his strategies for student learning encourage students to stretch and press forward to achieve goals. Mr. Batchelor ensures that all students own their learning and hold themselves accountable for knowing how world cultures relate to their lives. He creates thought-provoking, innovative, meaningful lessons to keep students engaged. He also uses his talents to convince students they are highly capable and successful.

- Sherma Duck, principal



ANDREW VITEK

Arnold Middle School
Math

Andy is positive, energetic, engaging and kind. His calm presence and demeanor help him build great relationships with his students and make them feel confident in their abilities. He sets his expectations high and works tirelessly to assure that his instructional strategies help all students to be successful. Andy consistently mentors and models effective teaching practices for new teachers. He is respected and admired by fellow colleagues; it has been said that Andy is the teacher that you would want to teach your own child.

- Jodi Matteson, principal



KAYDE FREEMAN

Black Elementary School
Life Skills

Kayde Freeman embodies the theme, “Every Student, Every Day” in her work as an instructional strategist. She meets the varied needs of her students through carefully crafted lessons, data analysis and differentiated instruction. Kayde fosters independence through picture schedules, assistive technology and other visual supports. She orchestrates meaningful hands-on lessons that incorporate all learning styles and modalities for optimal learning. High expectations are set and students experience success due to the scaffolding of support they receive from Kayde and her amazing team, who are dedicated to providing a rigorous curriculum in a loving and supportive environment.

- Melissa LeDoux, principal



LANSING BROWN

Carlton Center
Life Skills

Mrs. Brown’s instructional strategies for students in special education are examples of the belief that, “Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or in the same way” (George Evans). She models this concept daily through her creativity, thoughtful planning and ability to think outside-of-the-box. Mrs. Brown is relentless in her pursuits to meet the needs of each child regardless of the challenges they may face. She is a passionate instructor who is an avid proponent of functional communication skills, and highly proficient in the use of technology supports - receiving statewide recognition for her creativity in software use.

- Rhonda R. Turns, principal



AMANDA TANTON

Cypress Falls High School
Geometry

Amanda Tanton is an exceptional teacher who exudes creativity and exemplifies the meaning of instructional strategist. She continuously seeks out new learning opportunities and best practices to ensure she is meeting her students' diverse needs. Amanda's teammates describe her passion for all students as contagious as she inspires both students and staff to be their best. Students love Mrs. Tanton because she makes learning fun. She believes they can learn anything, so they do. She never seeks the spotlight, allowing others to shine around her. So this year, I want to shine the light on Mrs. Amanda Tanton.

- Becky Denton, principal



JANEA DENNIS

Cypress Ranch High School
English III

Cypress Ranch High School is honored to present Ms. Janea Dennis as the 2016 Spotlight Teacher. Ms. Dennis goes above and beyond to provide quality instruction for all her students, ranging from the regular English curriculum to the Advanced Placement level. In addition, in her role as team leader, she has mentored many teachers new to the profession and taught them specifically how the art of instruction impacts student learning each and every day. Perhaps Janea's best quality is her uncanny ability to reach and make successful those students who have previously struggled in English. It is all this and her overwhelming love for students that make Ms. Janea Dennis the perfect choice to represent Cy Ranch HS as this year's Spotlight Teacher. Congratulations, Janea.

- Robert Hull, principal



KELLY POWELL

Cypress Springs High School
Spanish

iBienvenidos! This is the greeting all students receive when entering Ms. Kelly Powell's Spanish classroom. Ms. Powell has created a welcoming student-centered environment with high academic standards and strong relationships. Her anchor charts remind students about big ideas which encourage them to always work hard until the job is done WELL. Ms. Powell uses the tenets of PBIS to maintain high standards for behavior that motivate all students to stay on task and learn the objectives for the day. Teachers visit her model classroom for inspiration and ideas. A life-long learner who shares her passion for knowledge with both students and teachers, Kelly Powell represents the true Portrait of a Panther Classroom.

- Cheryl Henry, principal



DANA GENTRY

Francone Elementary School
ELAR

Fearless, with a heart of gold, is how Dana Gentry can best be described. Always believing in their capacity for growth, she remains undaunted, even with students who may have various deficits. Mrs. Gentry works tirelessly planning lessons that meet the needs of her students, which allows her to effectively deliver thoughtfully designed instruction every day. Personally accepting the educational responsibility for every student on campus, she has the uncanny ability to foster positive relationships with all students, and stays connected with them long after they leave elementary school. Francone Elementary School is fortunate to have Mrs. Gentry impacting the minds and hearts of our students.

- Tonya Goree, principal



ISABEL MCHAN

Gleason Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten

Each day, Isabel McHan provides nothing less than her very best to her students. She is consistently committed to her students and ensures that they receive high-quality, innovative and engaging lessons. She has a special talent for creating specialized lessons that meet the needs of EVERY student. She also creates an environment where students want to come to school and builds relationships with them while motivating them to reach their full potential. It is an honor to have Isabel McHan represent Gleason Elementary School as our 2016 Spotlight Teacher.

- Christine Melancon, principal



BRITTNEY BOYD

Hemmenway Elementary School
Math and Science

Nestled in the corner of Hemmenway is a magical place, where students with varying abilities are all hard at work. To foster the deepest understanding of the day's learning objectives, Mrs. Boyd affords every student an opportunity to participate. She moves about the room, posing questions to help students make connections; challenging students to think at high levels and anticipating where understanding may breakdown. If you are ready to move ahead, she has a plan to challenge you or extend your thinking. If you need a little push, she works side-by-side with you to help ensure mastery. Rigorous planning and masterful instruction are ever-present in Mrs. Boyd's classroom.

- Jae Simpson-Butler, principal



MEGAN BREIDENTHAL

Keith Elementary School
Math

Walt Disney is quoted as asking, “Who says we have to grow up?” Mrs. Breidenthal is an example of how wonderful it can be when we do not grow up. Fourth-grade students in Mrs. Breidenthal’s math classes know what it is like to be with someone that is truly a child at heart. That playful approach leads to her making quality instruction at all academic levels look easy. She makes sure they are busy every minute in her classroom by engaging them in a variety of activities designed to keep them moving, thinking, talking and having fun.

- Cheryl Fisher, principal



JILL MIEDKE

Lieder Elementary School
Kindergarten

Jill Miedke is a remarkable teacher. Her in-depth knowledge of the kindergarten curriculum establishes a learning environment in which all her students thrive. She creates lessons to engage all learning styles, and scaffolds her learners through the use of detailed anchor charts. Throughout her teaching career, Jill has worked diligently to bridge the gap for our most at-risk students. She uses every minute of class time to engage her students, making sure they actively participate in their learning. She serves as our lead mentor and assists all teachers whenever needed. Jill is an asset to our Lieder family and we are so proud of the wealth of knowledge she brings to our school.

- Karen Stockton, principal



SUSANNE TAYLOR

Matzke Elementary School
Math

Ms. Taylor is an outstanding educator. Her students benefit from her ability to plan lessons and activities based on their individual needs. She engages students from the very first day of school and ensures they progress and succeed right up to the last day of school. Ms. Taylor is an expert at discovering what makes a student successful and emphasizing that trait. She creates mathematicians by believing in her students and helping them reach their potential.

- Cathy Jacobs, principal



AMY CAMP

McFee Elementary School
PPCD

Do you remember Mary Poppins and her magic carpet bag? Amy Camp is McFee's version of Mary Poppins, and the magic bag that she has developed through the years contains an astounding array of instructional strategies ideally suited for her PPCD students. Not a minute of the day passes without every activity having an academic, social or behavioral purpose behind it. Have a student who is struggling and doesn't want to learn? No problem. Amy's "spoonful of sugar to make the medicine go down" will insure that the child has fun AND succeeds. Always willing to help others problem-solve the challenges in their classrooms, McFee is so lucky to have Mary Poppins - I mean, Amy Camp - as our Spotlight Teacher. She truly is "practically perfect in every way."

- Donna Harden, principal



ROBYN BANKS

Millsap Elementary School

Language Arts

Robyn's passion for learning and her immense amount of knowledge have positively impacted her students and the staff at Millsap Elementary School. She continuously seeks out learning opportunities and best practices to ensure that she is meeting the needs of all her students. She is recognized by peers and parents for her curriculum expertise and high academic expectations. Her energy and passion as a writing teacher are contagious. Robyn's eagerness to share her ideas and methods with the Millsap staff and across the district is admirable.

- Joy Dauphin, principal



AMY AGUILAR

Pope Elementary School

Math and Science

They say you can't catch lightning in a bottle. I beg to differ. We have bottled it at Pope Elementary, and it's our Spotlight Teacher, Amy Aguilar. High voltage electricity is the only way to describe Mrs. Aguilar. Her high energy and professional drive for success make her the perfect choice. She is the catalyst that drives the rigor of our third grade team by her creation of highly engaging math and science lessons. We honestly do not know when she sleeps. Her passion for teaching sparks the love of math and science in her students and this drives her team toward teaching perfection.

- Becky Koop, principal



SHANNA BARGER

Rennell Elementary School
Self-Contained

We are very proud to have Shanna Barger represent Rennell Elementary School as our Spotlight Teacher. Shanna is a shining example of an instructional strategist. Shanna believes in the potential of all of her students. She is unwilling to compromise on their successes by expecting anything less than their best. In order to achieve that goal, Shanna gives her all in the planning of each lesson to ensure that the needs of every child are met. She sees what is possible, and does what is needed to make the possible become reality for each child. Children in Mrs. Barger's class love coming to school, knowing that they will be successful.

- Leslie Thomas, principal



STACY DANIELS-MCFARLAND

M. Robinson Elementary School
Self-Contained

When you enter the first-grade classroom of Stacy McFarland, the first thing you will notice is the magical buzz of learners engaged in student-centered activities that stretch their minds and challenge their souls. Stacy's students hang on to her every word as she is a master of the components of readers and writers workshops. She skillfully crafts her classroom and lessons to reach all levels of students. She works side-by-side with the first-grade team modeling, assisting and coaching new teachers with best instructional practices. As our campus lead mentor, she works with teachers after school and provides leadership. Every day she leads with a joyful spirit, a zest for teaching and a vast knowledge of instructional strategies making her classroom a spotlight on our campus.

- Irene Ruiz, principal



CALLIE ROMERO

Watkins Middle School

Reading and Language Arts

It's an honor to present Callie Romero as the Watkins Spotlight Teacher. Callie embodies all the qualities of an instructional strategist by truly understanding the daily objective, consistently assessing students' work, designing engaging lessons and analyzing data to maximize the impact of first-time instruction. Any one of these areas is a lifelong pursuit for any teacher. Callie's desire for continuously working on ALL aspects of her craft stems from the deeper passion she has for our students. It is this passion that fuels her to be a Spotlight teacher every day. Congratulations, Callie. We are honored you're a Bulldog.

- Jose Martinez, principal



TAMMY HAWKINS

Yeager Elementary School

Language Arts and Social Studies

Passion and dedication are words that immediately come to mind when I think about what makes Tammy Hawkins such a successful teacher. Tammy makes every lesson exciting and fun for her students. Her love of books is contagious and when you walk into her room, you find yourself immersed in literacy. She celebrates students' successes and knows their individual needs so she can guide them through their next steps in learning. She believes in her students and inspires them to do their best. Yeager Elementary School is honored to recognize Tammy Hawkins as our Spotlight Teacher.

- Laura Barrett, principal

CREATOR OF A STUDENT-CENTERED ENVIRONMENT

A CFISD teacher who provides a caring, supportive classroom in which students are workers and doers, comfortable in taking risks to further their learning.



JAMES CHASE

Alternative Learning Center East

English I, PACE, Read 180 and Teen Leadership

Mr. Chase's expansive world travels, including teaching abroad, have afforded him a plethora of experiences. Through these journeys, he is able to broaden the students' horizons by regularly incorporating his experiences in cross-curricular lessons. His class projects and discussions lead students on a journey of self-exploration and discovery that instill life-long learning and acceptance of cultural differences. Mr. Chase has the natural ability to relate to all students. His calming demeanor and his non-judgmental outlook toward all learners paves the way to a perfect learning environment. It is for these reasons that Mr. Chase is our choice for ALC-East Spotlight Teacher.

- Laurie Snyder, principal



LENORA GRIER

Alternative Learning Center West

Biology and Forensic and Environmental Science

Lenora Grier spends countless hours proactively planning lessons that authentically engage each individual student. Mrs. Grier teaches responsively and works with students to set goals and instill hope for a better future. Real-world lessons challenge students to think deeply, critically and to become problem solvers that will take action and do something to make our community and our world a better place. Lenora Grier's classroom is a judgment-free zone where student's feel comfortable taking risks in their learning because they feel safe enough to try. Thank you, Mrs. Grier, for helping each student get back on the ROAD to success.

- Stacie Wicke, principal



KELLY GRASER

Aragon Middle School
Reading

Kelly exemplifies all characteristics of a CFISD teacher. She is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students, but has a true gift for reaching the most struggling learner. Kelly sets high expectations and encourages students on a daily basis to reach those expectations. She is dedicated to integrating best practices, building relationships and encouraging students and staff to be the best version of themselves. Her students continue to show academic growth, but most importantly, their confidence increases with every interaction. We are truly blessed to have Kelly as part of the Aragon family.

- Maria Mamaux, principal



NICOLE BRIDGES

Ault Elementary School
Math and Science

Ms. Bridges is always searching for the best way to reach all of her students. She believes all students will be successful and she always encourages them to never give up on themselves. If she believes a student needs a little extra one-on-one or small-group instruction, she will go way above and beyond to make sure their needs are met. Ms. Bridges is a master at building relationships with her students. She finds ways to connect with them and uses those connections to keep students excited about learning. Her students feel comfortable and safe with her and many share their struggles and fears with her. Ms. Bridges is that one of a kind teacher that Ault is very proud to name as Spotlight Teacher for 2016.

- Jeff LaCoke, principal



ADRIAN SRALLA

Bane Elementary School
Kindergarten

Walking into Ms. Sralla's room is like walking into a world of imagination and learning. She is known for creating a kid-friendly, colorful environment. Every student is proud to be in her class and each one knows their responsibilities in maintaining the optimum learning environment. Peers recognize her creativity and they say things like, "Ms. Sralla creates opportunities for all students to be actively engaged and to participate. She creates a fun, student-centered classroom for her students. Her room is like a theme park for kindergarten students where every corner has an instructional purpose." Ms. Sralla certainly deserves to be in the spotlight as a creator of a student-centered environment.

- Carrie Marz, principal



KATRINA VOLLMER

Bang Elementary School
Writing

Mrs. Vollmer exemplifies teaching from the heart. When students enter her classroom she covers them with a blanket of support. In Mrs. Vollmer's classroom there is shared ownership between the teacher and the students. They might be playing instructional games, working in partner groups while justifying their learning. To help her students be more successful Mrs. Vollmer and her partner provided an evening writing session for parents. Big hit! A small plane hangs from her ceiling to remind her students they can soar as they make every day an adventure. In her classroom there is a bright red and yellow sign that says "Free Hugs" that she serves up daily.

- Erwann Wilson, principal



KRISTI BRUNS

Birkes Elementary School
Special Education

Jon Gordon says, “Believe in your students more than they believe in themselves.” Ms. Bruns exemplifies the characteristics of a teacher who models this with every student, every day. She sees potential rather than limitations in all of her students. She works with a variety of skill sets and pushes each student to obtain greatness. She has a “whatever it takes” attitude and thinks outside the box to ensure the success of all students. She is an inspiration to her colleagues with her positive and contagious attitude. Ms. Bruns’ love for every child shines, and she glows with excitement when she shares their accomplishments, no matter how small.

- Stacie Everson, principal



JEQUILA BROUSSARD

Campbell Middle School
Science

Every Student, Every Day is a true mission for JeQuila Broussard. Ms. Broussard is dedicated to making a difference in every student’s life on a daily basis. Her classroom is inviting, her expectations are high and her loving guidance is abundant. Every successful person has someone they remember fondly for helping them become the productive citizen they are today. Campbell Scholars will definitely remember Ms. Broussard fondly because she makes each student feel special and capable. Creating a challenging and encouraging learning environment, guiding others through love, seeking innovative ways to reach every learner, developing strong and supportive relationships, leading by example and striving to help both students and colleagues to excel are all part of Ms. Broussard’s calling as a master teacher.

- Laura Perry, principal



CHRISTIE SCHNABEL

Copeland Elementary School

Reading and Language Arts

A six-year-old student once said, “My teacher thought I was smarter than I was – so I was.” Students in Mrs. Schnabel’s second grade classroom would say the same thing. Each day she greets them with a smile, a hug and a belief in their ability to accomplish great things. When struggles arise whether it is academic, relationship or behavioral, Mrs. Schnabel embraces it with the student. She anchors them with her love and faith, as she works to equip them with the skills needed to navigate through the rough waters. Students in Mrs. Schnabel’s second grade classroom are secure and setting off with the wind in their sails because they know their teacher has confidence in them.

- Michelle Rice, principal



BONNIE WASS-JONES

Cy-Fair High School

Health

Bonnie Wass-Jones is a master teacher who consistently creates a learning environment that allows students to feel confident while taking risks in their learning. She creates positive expectations so that even the most apprehensive students end up believing in themselves. As the team leader for health, Coach Jones facilitates the planning for, and the delivery of, student-centered learning along with relevant and engaging instruction that helps all our students excel. She is also the first person to volunteer whenever there is a need to help students or to ensure that Cy-Fair High School runs smoothly. She is respected by administrators, parents, students and her peers for her ability to teach and inspire others. Cy-Fair High School is extremely proud of this year’s Spotlight Teacher.

- Mike Smith, principal



LAURIE JUNEWICK

Cypress Creek High School
Physical Education

Laurie Junewick exemplifies Cougar Pride and the ultimate educator. She uses her wealth of experience as a physical education teacher and coach to bring excitement, fun and increased heart rate to her students. The students are engaged in activities that help them get up and getting moving. Ms. Junewick also works with students who have limited physical mobility. She finds the appropriate challenge level for all students so they can be involved in the game or activity. She develops relationships with her students. These relationships help the students achieve success. Cypress Creek is proud to have Laurie Junewick as the 2016 Spotlight Teacher. Ahh CC!

- Vicki Snokhous, principal



TAMMY WINSMANN

Cypress Ridge High School
PACE Plus and PALS

When entering the classroom of Tammy Winsmann, you feel the energy and see the engagement of her students. It is evident that Ms. Winsmann has high expectations for her students, sets them up for success with tools to help them navigate challenges and truly makes learning fun. She has even initiated new projects on our campus to help our students be successful, including Saturday Success Academy and Random Acts of Kindness Club. We are blessed to have her on our staff and we are proud to have her as our 2016 Spotlight Teacher.

- Stephanie Meshell, principal



SONIA TALLON

Cypress Woods High School

Active Learning Life Skills

Sonia Tallon is a person with the utmost servant's heart. Daily, Sonia ensures that the medical needs, hygiene, feeding and personal needs of her Life Skills students are met while meeting their IEP goals and objectives. Sonia is a team player, giving of her time, both at Woods and outside of school. She visits and works with her students who are in specialized facilities and hospitals, always wanting her kids to see a familiar face. Sonia has helped lay the foundation of the Life Skills program at Cy Woods since the beginning (10 years ago) and has been integral in molding the program into one of CFISD's finest. Congratulations, Sonia; a well-deserved moment in the spotlight.

- Gary Kinninger, principal



LATOYA LEWIS

Duryea Elementary School

Self-Contained

Mrs. Lewis creates an atmosphere in her classroom that inspires, encourages and promotes every single student to achieve regardless of any limitations. Her joy for teaching is as apparent as her students' zeal for learning. Equally notable, as a team leader, Mrs. Lewis has shared instructional practices and strategies that have impacted learning across the entire campus. Her thoroughness, structure, positivity and creativity permeate team planning periods as richly as they do through her students' learning. Even before this year's theme was adopted, Mrs. Lewis was creating a student-centered environment that empowers Every Student, Every Day.

- Kenneth Henry Jr, principal



ANA RADU

Emery Elementary School
Special Education

Ana has a presence that is truly remarkable. The moment you meet her, you immediately feel her level of expertise, professionalism and intuition. She easily captivates both staff and students with her exuberant charm. Her most unique combination of charisma and aptitude simplified the process in choosing her as our Spotlight Teacher. Ana excels in motivating every student, every day with skills that appear effortless. Ana facilitates growth in students by stretching them past their comfort zone, while constantly providing the support they need to succeed. She is a treasure at Emery Elementary School.

- Michelle Merricks, principal



KIMBERLY PATTON

Emmott Elementary School
RLA and Social Studies

It is such an honor to recognize Ms. Kim Patton as this year's Spotlight Teacher. She is committed and dedicated to always going over and beyond for her students. Kim has built relationships with her students and they are eager to learn from her. The ability she has to make learning fun and draw on connections makes her a joy to watch in action. Aside from the classroom, she has served in many roles to help support the overall achievement of the campus. Her positivity and constant strive to reach all students in her class and around the school make her a perfect model for spotlight. We are so excited for Kim and glad that she teaches with the heart for students.

- Jessica Hernandez, principal



SHERRIE O'BRIEN

Fiest Elementary School
Self-Contained

Sherrie wears a permanent smile on her face whether she is teaching, learning or collaborating with her colleagues. Her students know how much she cares about them by the trusting environment she creates. She is always willing to do whatever it takes to help her students succeed emotionally, socially and academically. It is evident that Sherrie fosters a love for learning and models excellence for all who come in contact with her. As an example of her desire to grow as a teacher, Sherrie took on learning several new content areas when she jumped at the chance to be a self-contained teacher this year. If I had to describe Sherrie in three words, I would say she is one of the most compassionate, dedicated and humble teachers I have had the privilege of working with.

- Jeanette Gerault, principal



JENNIFER GONZALES

Frazier Elementary School
Reading and Language Arts

The best way to describe Jennifer is a light in the darkness. She gives countless hours of her time to planning meaningful lessons, visiting students outside of school, and most of all, personally and purposefully connecting with students. When someone walks into her room, they are greeted with a deep sense of urgency and belonging. Jennifer has the desire to give her students the tools needed to overcome the hurdles they face because of the at-risk situations in which they live. Her lessons are tailored to meet the needs of each of her students, no matter how wide their gaps may be. Students who may have otherwise given up on themselves, are eager to learn and take risks in her classroom. Frazier is a light in the darkness because of Ms. Gonzales' presence among us.

- Gloria Vasquez, principal



ELLEN WHITELEY

Hairgrove Elementary School
Math and Science

Mrs. Whiteley welcomes students into a print-rich environment starting in the third-grade hall that is filled with interactive bulletin boards, word walls with pictures, and of course, anchor charts. She posts and teaches real-world connections to increase student understanding and engagement. She utilizes every possible second to teach; from having students walk in parallel lines and making right angles when turning, to having students orbit around the lunch table throwing away their trash. The smallest amount of growth is celebrated in her room while having the highest of expectations. She loves every student, and they know it.

- Darynda Klein, principal



JOAN PEARSON

Hamilton Middle School
ELAR

Joan Pearson is always striving to do what is best for her students' learning and success. Mrs. Pearson constantly monitors her students' performance, seeks out and tries new approaches, methods and curriculum for student engagement. She also motivates and encourages, all the while having high expectations in a nurturing classroom environment. She demonstrates excellence as she makes learning exciting and engaging through daily integration of Quantum Learning. She continuously recognizes positive behavior and exemplifies what REAL means through her words and actions. Mrs. Pearson is sincerely positive, loves her calling to teach and gives all of herself to her team and Every Student, Every Day.

- Kim Sempe, principal



MELISSA THOMAS

Hancock Elementary School

Language Arts

Her heart is at the center of everything she does, and who knows this better than the students she enjoys working with daily. It is no wonder that, from her heart, Ms. Melissa Thomas creates an environment that is student-centered, inviting and very engaging. Every student is made to feel special, as she consistently builds a culture of respect, caring and high expectations. Ms. Thomas encourages and motivates students to give their best, and they always respond in kind. Her students come first, and if someone were to ask her, she would modestly reply, “The spotlight should be on them and not on me.”

- Nancy Rogers, principal



JOLEINE GARCIA

Holbrook Elementary School

ELAR and Social Studies

Joleine Garcia creates a learner-centered classroom by encouraging and inspiring students to seek out knowledge and to strive for understanding daily in a positive, respectful learning environment. This allows students to see the bigger picture of what they are learning and why it is important. She consistently encourages active participation from her students and challenges them to monitor their own thinking, as well as their behavior. This empowers her kids to motivate themselves and their learning, which in turn positively impacts their achievement.

- Yvette Garcia, principal



JACLYN FRASURE

Holmsley Elementary School
Language Arts

The Gentle Giant - that is what we call Mrs. Frasure here at Holmsley Elementary School. At first glance Ms. Frasure would not strike an outsider as a teacher that thrives off of her students' energy. She is reserved, quiet and humble and prefers to work alone. However, observe her in one planning session or one writers' workshop lesson and you will agree that the nickname is perfect. Every lesson she teaches is carefully planned to address ALL students and if one student is not "getting it" she will stay after school for hours trying to figure out a way to reach them. Driven by data and the success of her students, Ms. Frasure is a teacher that thinks and explores and questions every lesson that she delivers. She is a Gentle Giant whose presence is strong and positive here at Holmsley.

- Ana Diaz, principal



TRACEY PETWAY

Jersey Village High School
English

At Jersey Village High School, we are all about relationships. No one embodies this belief more than our honoree, Tracey Petway. She exudes passion for her students and in her teaching. Tracey is a leader on our campus because of her innovative teaching strategies, her relentless quest for excellence and her ability to reach all students. Students are drawn into her English lessons through the connections she makes in their lives and real-world experiences. She provides the support necessary to ensure success for all her students. We are proud to have Tracey Petway be our spotlight teacher and part of the Falcon Family.

- Ralph Funk, principal



JOSÉ LYNN GÓMEZ

Jowell Elementary School
Science

Lynn Gomez is a dedicated professional who strives to meet the needs of all his students every day. He is a teacher who moves beyond the curriculum to make learning relevant by connecting science to real-life current events and utilizing humor to make it fun. He creates a community of learners who are engaged, motivated and willing to take risks by establishing high expectations and mutual trust. He is truly loved by the students and they strive to meet his scientific formula for success. Lynn Gomez is truly a creator of a student-centered environment.

- Kimberley Criswell, principal



EUNISHA PRUDHOMME

Kahla Middle School
Touch Systems Data and Principles of Information Technology

Ms. Prudhomme is a Kahla instructional leader who engages students as a creator of a student-centered environment by believing in students, reaching students where they are and moving them to higher grounds. She builds and expects rigor in and outside the classroom and exemplifies Home Court Advantage in and out of the classroom. Ms. Prudhomme is an inspiration to us all. She is a team player who cooperates with others for the benefit of the campus, focusing on the positives and valuing others. Ms. Prudhomme truly makes a difference in kids' lives.

- Ana Martin, principal



MEREDITH KIPPES

Labay Middle School

Math

Miss Kippes has an incredible talent for managing student behavior and learning in her classroom through positive incentives. Her positive attitude allows her to establish relationships with even the most reluctant students, resulting in students working to be successful in her class. Meredith is a leader and team player on her seventh-grade math team. She uses data to drive and differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students. She is a co-chairman of the Campus Spirit Committee and has led activities which involve both students and staff to help establish a culture of school pride on campus.

- Patty Mooney, principal



REBECCA ROBERTS

Moore Elementary School

ELAR

Every morning you can find Rebecca Roberts standing at her door greeting each student as they enter her classroom. She makes it her goal to start the day off with her students on a positive note. The minute you walk into her classroom, you know that the students love being there. She brings out the best in her students by celebrating their growth daily and also by setting the bar high. She not only sets the bar high, but does everything possible to help them reach that bar. Rebecca's passion for teaching and her desire for student success are evident in the creative ways that she reaches her students. Moore Elementary School is honored to have such a dynamic educator on staff.

- Jana Needham, principal



LISA HUGHES

Owens Elementary School
Physical Education

Lisa Hughes is an extraordinary physical education teacher who truly loves what she does and it shows every day. Being a PE teacher enables Lisa to personally reach each one of our students for many years. Lisa is organized, truly a team player, and always has a smile on her face. When you visit the gym, you will always see her interacting and having fun with the students. Lisa uses every minute of the class period to engage her students. She has made lifelong connections with many of her former students. As a leader of the CATCH Committee, she reminds staff and students the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. She is personally responsible for organizing our annual carnival that is a huge fundraiser for our school. Lisa Hughes is an important member of our Owens family. This is an award that is truly deserved.

- Amy Frank, principal



LAURA STEWART

Post Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten

Laura Stewart is a model teacher for creating a student-centered environment. Visiting her pre-k classroom during the first week of school, you can see the challenges of teaching four-year-olds entering school for the first time. Laura makes sure all students feel safe and secure as she builds relationships with each of them. Exposing her students to developmentally appropriate activities through small-group instruction and center activities, the amount of growth in her students is quite evident. Students are always engaged in learning—whether it's skills in language and math or music, art or gross motor skills. She uses every minute of the day to teach. Laura is the kind of teacher every parent wants for their child's first year of school.

- Missy Kilday, principal



LISA CONNELL

Reed Elementary School
Kindergarten

When we think of Lisa Connell, three words instantly come to mind: prepared, patient, and above all, kind. Those qualities have helped Lisa to become the teacher that we would all want our children to have. Her classroom environment is stimulating and set for student success. Lisa's attention to detail and organizational skills contribute to the well-oiled machine that is her classroom. She is a master at both classroom management and instructional delivery. Lisa should probably trademark the phrases she so often uses: "Kind Friends, Kind Voices, Kind Hands and Kind Words." Her gentle and kind demeanor make all students in her classroom feel valued and loved.

- Kandy Bond, principal



AMY MOORE

Salyards Middle School
Choir

Amy Moore uses music to connect students to each other, to Salyards and to the community around them. This year her influence reached out to World War II veterans through a special concert, "The Greatest Generation", that helped students connect with the feelings and emotions of a time that is typically beyond their grasp. Amy has been described as a "student magnet" because in the three years she has been at Salyards, the choir program has grown from under 100 students to over 350. Amy's goal is to spark a passion in every student, not only for singing, but for becoming the best versions of themselves. Salyards Middle School is truly fortunate to have Amy Moore as a member of the Bengal family.

- Liz Wood, principal



JENNIFER BYGNESS

Sampson Elementary School
Math and Science

In the Superhero halls of Sampson there is a teacher that is truly a creator of student-centered environment. This teacher engages and challenges student-thinking and learning through hands-on science labs. Sounds of “what if” and “why” are often heard echoing through her classroom. She makes each student feel special because she takes an interest in their school and home lives. She is able to understand her students’ needs, strengths, weaknesses and learning styles. Her classroom is an environment where all children are comfortable and willing to take risks. Jennifer Bygness is a Sampson Superhero, and we are proud to shine the spotlight on her this year.

- Heather Motzny, principal



CINDY LOCKE

Sheridan Elementary School
Music

Have you seen a classroom where the students are completely engaged and hanging on to every word the teacher says? Have you seen a class where students are excited about learning? If not, just visit Mrs. Locke’s class and see what great teaching is all about. Her goal is to spark a passion for music every day in every student. She finds ways to incorporate many concepts that the students are learning into her music classes. A staff member wrote, “Mrs. Locke personifies every positive thing that Sheridan stands for.” On top of that, she is one of the most positive people you will ever meet.

- Gina Guidry, principal



JOHN SIMMONS

Smith Middle School
Technology

Aside from ushering students to the regional, state and national TSA competitions each year, Josh Simmons has students eagerly running to his classroom each day. The excitement within the walls of his room is contagious. Whether students are constructing their first cutting board or building a piece of furniture, they learn the importance of cooperation and experience the joys of success under the guidance of Mr. Simmons. He has developed an excellent program that demands a waiting list for his courses year after year. His enthusiasm and genuinely kind spirit make him a much appreciated member of our Sabercat family.

- Susan Higgins, principal



MAE SUTTON

Spillane Middle School
Reading and Dyslexia

Whoever called space the final frontier never taught middle school. Middle school mission specialists must meet the needs of Every Student, Every Day. They cannot be afraid to encounter new situations and must be willing to change course and adapt their instructional environment. Mission specialists understand that one small step for some may be a giant leap for others. They explore beyond the borders of their classroom and partner with others to reach beyond the sky as they shoot for the moon. This year Spillane Middle School proudly recognizes our 2016 mission specialist who takes her students to infinity and beyond, Mae Sutton.

- Michael Maness, principal



MELISSA JUDSON

Swenke Elementary School

Special Education, Resource and ICS

As a resource teacher, Melissa Judson spends no more than 30 to 60 minutes a day with each of her students. Although her time with them may be limited, her impact is life-changing. She challenges her students, has high expectations and believes in their abilities. She understands that it is her job to find the right way for each student to learn, and she does this intuitively and with compassion. Melissa's students are inspired to do their best because of the confidence she instills in them. Her belief in her students has no limits.

- Elizabeth Miller, principal



JAMIE WILLIAMS

Thornton Middle School

Teen Leadership and Peer Mediation

Jamie Williams is a creative visionary who values Every Student, Every Day. She has shown success by taking some of our most challenging at-risk students and shaping them into 21st century critical thinkers, problem solvers, trendsetters and visionaries. Mrs. Williams believes in every student despite their past mistakes or shortcomings. She values each of their contributions. Mrs. Williams' success lies in her authentic relationships she forges with students, her listening ear, her caring heart and her loving attitude that every student has a purpose and can succeed.

- Reginal Mitchell, principal



BROOKE BUNTING

Truitt Middle School
Math

Anyone who visits Ms. Bunting's classroom can easily see that she has created a warm, student-centered environment coupled with high expectations. Brooke uses creative and innovative ideas to challenge her students. "Caring" and "nurturing" are two words that describe her relationship with both her students and peers. She is always willing to do whatever it takes to help her students succeed, and she willingly shares strategies with her colleagues. When hiring teachers on my campus, I ask myself if I would want my child in their classroom. With Ms. Bunting, that answer would definitely be YES.

- Teresa Baranowski, principal



SHARON QUINILTY

Walker Elementary School
ELAR

Our special Spotlight Teacher sees each day as a challenge to find a way to connect and make a difference in each student's life. This person is never heard stating, "these kids can't" but instead looks within to reflect and plan for what "can be" done. This person is a quiet and nurturing teacher who is not only a servant leader with students but also with the entire staff. Each day she gives the best of who they are and what they are about. A student shared his thoughts, which truly paints the perfect picture of the passion within our Spotlight Teacher. "This teacher makes me get interested in books and helps me ignore the bad things in my life." Sharon Quinilty truly goes above and beyond at Walker Elementary School.

- Kim Dameron, principal



TRINA MOORE

Willbern Elementary School
Math and Science

Trina is described by her peers as passionate, innovative, focused on student success, data-driven and a life-long learner. After spending time in her classroom, students quickly learn that their teacher believes in their ability to reach their highest potential. Trina views her parents as an extension of the classroom and provides parent tutoring so that learning at home can mirror what is going on in the classroom. Her quiet nature and giving spirit allow her to be a quiet leader among her peers and we are proud to celebrate Trina as Willbern Elementary School's Spotlight Teacher.

- Connye Roberson, principal



ANGELA LEGGETT

Wilson Elementary School
ELAR and Social Studies

Angela Leggett is remembered by every one of her students. Just walk into her classroom and you will never want to leave. Her ability to engage students and strengthen them academically is just the beginning of her many talents. She expects the best and then empowers each child so they can achieve lofty goals. With an expert hand, she molds future leaders by opening her classroom to our school's student council. Her influence has extended to help sponsor Fit Girls. Student teachers thrive within her walls. For these reasons and more, Wilson Elementary School proudly shines its spotlight on Angela Leggett.

- Pam Link, retired principal



JILL JOHNSON

Windfern High School
English IV

Windfern is proud to spotlight Jill Johnson, an educator who understands that while subject matter is important to master, it is merely a vehicle for teaching students how to be successful in life. Along the way, she ensures that all students feel a sense of belonging, all contributions are valued and respect reigns supreme. Jill's students would tell you she is tough on them, yet they ultimately realize the gift she has given them: the power to believe in themselves. Students leave knowing they have been challenged to give their personal best through her firm, but caring guidance. Left is the memory of Ms. Johnson indelibly imprinted in their minds and hearts.

- Martha Strother, principal

POSITIVE ROLE MODEL

A CFISD teacher who displays the values and norms defined by good citizenship as well as the personal qualities frequently associated with effective, productive lives.



ANTHONY HELTON

Adaptive Behavior Center

Physical Education and Crisis Intervention

It is my pleasure to recognize Anthony Helton as our 2015-2016 spotlight teacher. He is a quiet, confident leader that arrives every day with a positive attitude and that is always willing to help students and staff. His calm, patient and caring demeanor makes him a favorite among students. Even reluctant learners will rely on Mr. Helton's encouragement to make it through a difficult day. It is an honor to work with such a positive role model.

- Chad Perry, principal



AGNES GONZALEZ

Adam Elementary School

Language Arts

Adam is thrilled to shine the spotlight on Agnes Gonzalez. Mrs. Gonzalez is a talented teacher and her passion for student success sets her apart. She personifies what it means to be a positive role model for her students. She doesn't miss an opportunity to talk to students and build relationships. Struggle isn't an obstacle for Agnes, it's an opportunity to model a positive attitude and perseverance. Mrs. Gonzalez is creative in her delivery, getting on her students' level. She hooks them in, evaluates their strengths and pinpoints their areas of need. Her students know that she is their biggest cheerleader and she expects big things from them!

- Beth May, principal



CARIANNE STROUD

Andre' Elementary School
Dyslexia and Primary Literacy

Carianne Stroud is a natural leader and an inspiration to her colleagues. Through her many roles as a dyslexia teacher, reading interventionist, coach and lead mentor, she demonstrates servant leadership at every opportunity. Grade-level teams appreciate her suggestions to engage students in meaningful ways. She is a master at encouraging other's viewpoints, while also seeking to promote understanding of the bigger picture, as it relates to global campus success. Andre' is lucky to have Carianne as a positive role model for teachers, but also for students, as her genuine smile and warm embrace inspire everyone she meets.

- Laura Ann Novancinski, principal



CHRIS PITTMAN

Bleyl Middle School
Band Director

It was truly an honor to inform Mr. Chris Pittman that he was nominated and selected as the Spotlight teacher for Bleyl. Chris is a positive role model for students and staff in and out of the classroom. As a band director, Chris has the opportunity to share his passion for music as well as educate students on the qualities of being a great musician. He not only teaches band at Bleyl, but he is a positive role model for all students. Mr. Pittman exemplifies positive values and instills them in all students so they can excel beyond the walls of any classroom.

- Stacia Carew, principal



STACEY ANDERSON

Cook Middle School
Physical Education and Athletics

The Portrait of a CFISD Teacher describes a positive role model as someone who displays values that evidence a meaningful, productive life. Well, anyone who knows Stacey Anderson would tell you to just put her picture under that category and that would say it all. Each and every day, Stacey demonstrates through her actions, her commitment to instilling a sense of self, belonging and success in all of her students. She has dedicated her life to ensuring that our students recognize their strengths and how to use them to better not only themselves, but those around them. Stacey embodies the Cook mantra of Rangers Today, Leaders Tomorrow by continuing each day to challenge our staff and students to be the very best person they can be.

- Maggie Wiley, principal



REBECCA HUYNH

Danish Elementary School
First Grade

It is my pleasure to introduce Rebecca Huynh as the Spotlight Teacher for Danish Elementary School. Ms. Huynh's 'whatever it takes' comes through in her smile whenever you meet her and talk to her about her children. She works tirelessly to ensure that not only her students excel, but also her team. She has everyone's best interest at heart. She has a supportive environment that fosters good manners, kindness and caring along with the highest of academic standards. She accepts her students where they are and pushes them to achieve beyond their dreams.

- Kelly Dalton, principal



KELSEY ROSTRON

Dean Middle School
Math

Kelsey Rostron has been dedicated to the students of Dean Middle School for the past five years. Her infinite passion to meet students where they are and support them in their educational journey is projected daily through her classroom and student interactions. Ms. Rostron provides endless opportunities for her students to experience 21st Century instruction while allowing them to find a love for math. In addition, she serves as a mentor teacher and is a proud supporter of many extracurricular events. Dean Mustangs have a great role model in Ms. Rostron.

- Heather Bergman, principal



LOUIS YANG

Farney Elementary School
Math and Science

Louis is a quiet leader on our campus. He leads by example and is an amazing role model for both students and staff. He comes to work with a smile and is eager to share his love of math and science with students. As our technology liaison, Louis has organized the Hour of Code event for the last three years. As an incentive for our staff to complete the STAR Chart, he has dressed up as a teapot and even yodeled when they completed their charts by the deadline. He stretches well outside of his comfort zone to encourage others.

- Tricia Reilly, principal



TIFFANY MAY

Hamilton Elementary School
Self-Contained

Aesop once said, “no act of kindness is ever too small.” This is what Tiffany May is all about. She exudes kindness in everything she does. As a bucket filler, she uses her invisible dipper to fill other people’s buckets with compliments, kind notes and words of encouragement. Her attitude is contagious and her leadership as the PBIS Kind Minds chair has impacted not only our students, but our staff, parents and community. Her actions remind all of us that while academics are important, at the end of the day, it is just as important to teach our students to have a kind heart.

-Joni Conn, principal



LINDSEY HOUSSON

Hopper Middle School
ELAR

Hopper Middle School is honored to recognize Ms. Housson as a remarkable teacher with a true gift for reaching even the most struggling student. She is respected by administrators, parents, students and her peers for her ability to teach and inspire others. She consistently plans for and delivers student-centered, relevant and engaging instruction that encourages her students to take risks and put forth the effort needed to excel in their learning. Lindsey has high expectations for all of her students. Her patience, approachability, kindness, positivity and insight are just a few of her characteristics that allow her to find the positives in every individual. She is caring and empathetic, while demonstrating unrelenting perseverance. It is these qualities that encourage people to follow her lead and grow into their full potential.

- Wendi Witthaus, principal



CHARLES AMENT

Langham Creek High School

PE Department Chair and Boys' Basketball Coach

Charles Ament is a highly regarded teacher and coach at Langham Creek High School, who cares for the students he teaches and staff he works with. He interacts with students in a positive way while holding them accountable for their own success. He is a role model for many young men who may not have a trusted father figure in their lives to provide support and guidance. He is also an avid reader of books on leadership and self-improvement and uses the knowledge for ways to motivate students and staff, to be the best they can be. Charles is an excellent role model for students and staff and an asset to Langham Creek.

- David Hughes, principal



KATE STONEHAM

Lowery Elementary School

Speech Pathologist

Lowery's spotlight teacher, Kate Stoneham, is not only passionate about teaching, but she is one of the most effective speech pathologists you will ever find. She exemplifies devotion to student success: academically and socially. Stop by her classroom and you will see her fostering student growth by engaging students in creative ways. Kate is willing to help anyone any way she can. She always has a positive attitude which she spreads around to everyone she meets. Kate's generous spirit is evident outside of Lowery as well, as she raises thousands of dollars each year in the MS150.

- April Wright, principal



SABRINA BERARD

Warner Elementary School
Life Skills

Sabrina is a positive role model for the Warner Elementary School staff, students and parents. She enthusiastically engages her students each and every day. Her smile is contagious. She consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and is dedicated to the success of all students. She builds relationships with her students and makes multiple connections between attributes of learning and students' personal lives. She accepts student differences and individualizes to ensure the success of her students. She is resourceful to staff, students and parents. Sabrina is always thinking outside-the-box. There is no obstacle that is too large for her to conquer. She is truly a gift to our staff, students and parents.

- Schonda Kidd, principal

LIFELONG LEARNER

A CFISD teacher who exemplifies the spirit of continuous improvement through selection of and attitude toward activities which foster personal and professional development.



MATTHEW WELLS

Cypress Lakes High School

AP Environmental Science and Forensic Science

Matt Wells, Cypress Lakes Spotlight teacher, embodies the concept of life-long learner. Around campus, he can be seen setting up crime scenes for Forensic Science or pulling on boots to take Environmental Science students on a tour of the marshes. But Matt's influence reaches far beyond the campus. As President of the Science Teacher's Association of Texas, Matt addresses Texas legislators on the needs of Science educators. A member of the Education Advisory Council for the Houston Zoo and the District's DEIC committee, Matt continually advocates for science education. Most importantly, though, Matt models life-long learning daily. Always the first to accept new classes and challenges, Matt then shares his learning as an instructor at Rice University. Cypress Lakes celebrates having an energetic, inquisitive, student-centered instructor, Matt Wells.

- Sarah Harty, principal



SHERICA WILLIAMS

Goodson Middle School

Math

Sherica began her career in education as a paraeducator working with Life Skills students at Goodson Middle School. She also served as an in-class support paraeducator. While serving as a para, she attended college to attain her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate. She was quickly hired as a math teacher at Goodson. However, she didn't stop her personal education there. She is currently working toward a Master of Education. Sherica models lifelong learning for her students and her peers. She is a dedicated professional who never stops seeking ways to improve herself or her craft. Sherica truly exemplifies the attributes of a lifelong learner.

- Sheri McCaig, principal



ELIZABETH SOONTIRARATN

Lamkin Elementary School
Reading Enrichment

Beth is a true example of a lifelong learner. She teaches her students not what to think, but how to think and to find truth in everything they read. If there is a question asked, Beth seeks the answer. Her expectations are high for herself and her students and she strives to surpass those every day. She is humble, dedicated, determined and makes decisions with the student in mind. Beth is adored on our campus and is a shining example of what a Spotlight teacher looks, talks and acts like. Lamkin is proud to spotlight this beautiful lady.

- Gale Parker, principal



BETH SEITER

A. Robison Elementary School
Science and Technology Liaison

Mrs. Seiter shines as a lifelong learner. As our technology liaison, she consistently models how to engage students through the use of technology. By graciously sharing her knowledge with our teachers, she has positively impacted countless students. With Mrs. Seiter's pursuit of her master's degree, she has modeled for our staff and students the importance of being a lifelong learner. She has developed leadership skills and has used the knowledge learned in her coursework to increase her effectiveness in the classroom. Mrs. Seiter is respected for her professionalism and her dedication to both our students and our staff. We are proud to recognize Mrs. Seiter as Robison's Spotlight Teacher.

- Kelly Gerletti, principal

TEAM PLAYER

A CFISD teacher who cooperates with others for the group's benefit, striving to solve problems by analyzing all pertinent data, listening to and valuing others' viewpoints, and actively seeking consensus.



TENEAL REINECKE

Horne Elementary School
ELAR

Problem solver, leader and mentor. These are the words the staff and parents of Horne Elementary School use to describe our Spotlight teacher, Teneal Reinecke. Teneal works diligently with the Horne team to develop stronger instructional and behavioral practices across all areas of the campus so that our students may reach their greatest potential. While serving as an active listener, supportive coach, and instructional strategist, she works to strengthen all staff members and systems on campus. Her dedication to the success of not only the students in her classroom, but the success of all Horne students, is a true blessing for Horne Elementary School.

- Stephanie Thomas, principal



LAWANDA NIKKI WILLIAMS

Kirk Elementary School
Life Skills

When Rita Pierson said, “Every child deserves a champion,” she certainly had Nikki Williams in mind. Nikki is a champion for special education students and if they all had her for a teacher, their hope for a bright future would be magnified. Nikki is a beacon for staff and parents and an advocate for special education students. On any given day, it is evident that she approaches the time with her students as an opportunity to help ensure that they are striving to be the best they can be. She is indeed the consummate team player whose positive attitude and willingness to consistently go the extra mile for students and colleagues are contagious. It is with great pride that our Mighty Tigers recognize LaWanda Nikki Williams as Kirk’s Spotlight Teacher of the Year.

- Onica Mayers, principal



RIDA QURASHI

Lee Elementary School
Math

It is both ironic and fitting “spotlight” is used to describe an outstanding teacher because Rida Qurashi is certainly not one to seek the spotlight; however she is most assuredly worthy. Rida is a quiet leader who models professionalism and integrity. She graciously takes on responsibilities and anticipates when there is a need, embodying what it means to be a servant leader. Vince Lombardi could have been describing Rida when he said, “Individual commitment to a group effort – that’s what makes a team work.” Ms. Qurashi is a gift to Lee Elementary School. We are honored to call her our colleague.

- Susan Epperson, principal



DORA ZANELLI

Metcalfe Elementary School
Self-Contained

Enthusiastic, dynamic, hard-working, team player, contributor, life-long learner and leader - these are a few words used to describe Dora Zanelli. She is an exceptional example of what a caring, concerned and competent teacher looks and sounds like. Ms. Zanelli started her career at Metcalfe Elementary School as a paraeducator in the bilingual program. She continued to work hard and work towards her teaching certificate. She has always been very loyal, dedicated and devoted to the students at Metcalfe, in order to impact generations of students and families. Ms. Zanelli is an inspiration and motivation to her first-grade team. She is prepared, purposeful and productive daily as she engages and successfully impacts the many lives that she teaches. She has truly embraced the model of Every Student, Every Day in any way possible, doing what it takes to impact and make a difference with students at Metcalfe.

- John Steward, principal



GWENDOLYN FONTENETTE

Postma Elementary School
Math and Science

An “amazing team player” is the most fitting description of Gwen Fontenette. Establishing strong relationships, Ms. Fontenette maintains a friendly, enthusiastic and welcoming work environment. Daily, she gives 100 percent by showing a willingness to help out where needed, be involved, share instructional ideas and provide support. Gwen is a wonderful mentor and positive educator. She has been instrumental in leading MCP lessons on campus. Connecting with students, Ms. Fontenette works to provide well-thought-out lessons to build student confidence and an understanding in math and science concepts. She sees the potential in each child. Every Student, Every Day is Ms. Fontenette’s passion in life.

- Kim Freed, principal



CHUCK CARLSON

Tipps Elementary School
Math and Science

Charles “Chuck” Carlson has the unique ability to find learning connections with his love for math, science and sports. He enhances instruction for all students through his creation of unique lessons and learning incentives. Chuck meets the needs of his students on a daily basis during student-centered activities and exploratory learning experiences. His tutoring before, during or after school allows him to find a way to make a difference for students and their parents. As a staff member, he is helpful, sincere and humble. Chuck freely offers his assistance to our staff members without hesitation. At Tipps Elementary School, we proudly recognize him as our MVP team player.

- Kari Hough, principal



LIZ SKINNER

Woodard Elementary School
Math and Science

As a veteran educator, Liz Skinner is bold and confident in her approach to instruction, creating lessons that are both relevant and engaging for her students. She is a patient and faithful leader of our wolfpack, unselfishly serving others with an inner peace and joy in her heart. Her quiet strength, thoughtful team planning, clear communication and servant leadership contribute to the overall positive collaboration across the campus, which spreads out into the Woodard community. For these reasons and more, the Woodard Elementary staff has chosen Liz Skinner to represent them as our inaugural spotlight teacher for 2015-2016.

- Susan Brenz, principal

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