

Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony

Each year the Milton Foundation for Education invites students, parents, and colleagues to nominate an outstanding educator for Teacher of the Year. On Thursday, May 26th, the Milton Foundation for Education honored 7 teachers for their dedication to the students of the Milton Public Schools. It was truly an inspirational night as teachers from all 6 schools and one teacher from the entire district were praised for the amazing work they do on behalf of their students. With a record setting number of nominations, these winners truly represent the best Milton has to offer.

The winner for Milton High School was Richard Guarino, guidance counselor. One parent was quoted as saying he has made all the difference in her child's life.

Genevieve Martland, a Milton native and 6th grade writing and English teacher, won for the Pierce Middle School. Students were quoted as saying she makes English class interesting and fun. She has a great sense of humor and always puts her students first.

Soondarie Barker, kindergarten teacher, was selected for the Tucker School. One parent was quoted as saying she absolutely loves what she does and gives 100% every day. Ms. Barker makes kids excited about learning.

Katie Lavallo, French reading specialist, won for the Glover School. She also teaches at the Tucker School. Parents were quoted as saying Ms. Lavallo is a huge asset to the French program. She gives 100% wherever she goes! She makes all the difference for her students.

The winner for the Collicot School was Mme. Esra Buyukozer. Parents were quoted as saying she is a devoted, patient, and warm teacher. Her many 1st graders who were present proved that she is an excellent role model and a gem. She is enthusiastic, caring, inspirational, positive, knowledgeable, energetic, kind, motivational and fun.

Kindergarten Teacher, Sarah Smith, won for the Cunningham School. Parents were quoted as saying she goes above and beyond to make learning fun. It is common to hear "I love Ms. Smith." Her energy and care for her students is amazing.

The final award of the night was the Dr. Mary Grassa O'Neill award which is bestowed upon an educator each year who acts as a mentor to other teachers. This year the well deserving recipient was Noreen Diamond Burdett. Ms. Burdett is the head of the Music /Fine Arts Department for MPS. Colleagues were quoted as saying she exemplifies the embodiment of true leadership. She provides support and believes in her teachers. She is a warrior in the pursuit of excellence in art education.

Congratulations to these 7 amazing teachers who inspire our children every day.