

Gayla Worden - Outstanding Educator!

I have worked with Gayla these past seven years as her Principal. During that time, I have been most impressed with her effort, dedication, professionalism and absolute commitment to the various groups she works with.

By way of her effort, she has chosen to develop student choirs that meet over the noon hours to practice songs for presentation at assemblies. These choirs meet twice per week throughout the year, evidence of her willingness to give of her own time to ensure a positive experience for her students. She also extends herself to meet the needs and desires of our staff. Through her music classes to all students in our K-4 school, our staff is provided preparation periods for their own use. Whenever scheduling conflicts inevitably arise that might result in the loss of those periods to the teacher, she willingly alters her schedule so as to continue to provide those periods to the affected teachers. She also prepares musical concerts for each grade that are presented in five evening concerts throughout the year.

Gayla is also our School Patrol Coordinator, a position she has held for 12 years. During this time, through her dedicated effort, the students have earned over 22 recognitions, on a term, yearly or Regional basis. These include four recognitions as the Top Rural Patrol Team for the Calgary region. Embedded in this program is the training for the students, provided over her lunch break, as well as at weekly recess meetings. She also ensures the required volunteers are in place to provide adult supervision while the students are on patrol.

On a professional level, I have observed how Gayla consistently strives to be the best example possible, by way of her work ethic and respect for those around her. She consistently chooses to be supportive, proactive and positive in her dealings with other staff, parents and administration. In these many ways, she is a true leader.

Gayla also demonstrates the attributes of a lifelong learner. She was an early adopter of having technology in her classroom, both for her own use and for the benefit of the students. Just this year, she was nominated to the position of President for the Fine Arts Specialist Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. In addition, she coordinates many of the Fine Arts performances that come into our school, indicative of her desire to promote the arts for our students. She actively approaches local businesses to donate their resources to support our school, as well as sharing our choirs for community functions.

Finally, as it relates to the students, she is one of the warmest, kindest, and most respectful people I have ever worked with. Not only do the students in the school regularly provide her with hugs, but students who have long since graduated from our school regularly return to seek her out and maintain a relationship.

Based on my 28 years as an administrator, she absolutely stands out as one who qualifies as a Distinguished Educator.