



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Chosen by their peers as "stars" from their respective schools, Goose Creek CISD Teachers of the Year from each campus were honored at a May 26 celebration at Ross S. Sterling High School.

Primeaux, Boyd named Goose Creek CISD Teachers of the Year

Evah Leigh Primeaux of Stephen F. Austin has been named Elementary Teacher of the Year and Brenda Boyd of Goose Creek Memorial High has been named Secondary Teacher of the Year for Goose Creek CISD.

Both teachers will represent Goose Creek CISD as its nominees in the 2011 Region IV Education Service Center Teacher of the Year competition, a step toward Texas Teacher of the Year to be announced later in the year.

Also, Faith Smith-Chew of Robert E. Lee High School was named this year's James Becker Thomson Award winner, which is presented annually to a Goose Creek CISD teacher for excellence in special education.

Smith-Chew has been a teacher with Goose Creek for nine years.

Chosen by their peers as "stars" from their respective schools, Teachers of the Year from each campus were also honored at the May 26 celebration at Ross S. Sterling High School.

Goose Creek CISD Campus Teachers of the Year for 2011 at the elementary level include Abby Davis, Alamo; Vicki Blalock, Ashbel Smith; Evah Leigh Primeaux, Austin; Roberto Ponce, B.P. Hopper; Terrie Andrews, Bowie; Rebeca Ramirez, Crockett; Rick Schultz, Carver; Kimberle Ann Erwin, DeZavala; Laura Lumpkin, Harlem; Mike Perez, Highlands; Tammy Matejka, Lamar; Mirtha Cartaya, San Jacinto; Carole Casey, Travis; and Tamie Land, Walker.

Campus Teachers of the Year from the secondary schools include Sheryl Ann Ferguson, Baytown Junior; Deanne Cummings, Cedar Bayou Junior; Lakittah Eagleton, Gentry Junior; Carolyn Johnson, Highlands Junior; Elsa Kleiman, Horace Mann Junior; Brenda Boyd, Goose Creek Memorial; Cynthia Benita Minor, Hyland Center; Sarah Flusche, Lee; Pedro Ruiz, School/Community Guidance Center; Christie Speights, Sterling; and Greg Thomas, Stuart Career Center.

"Educating our children is one of the most noble and important professions in America. Teachers make a significant impact each and every day on the lives of our children," said Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Toby York. "Thanks to each of you for all that you do for Goose Creek CISD students."

Brenda Boyd Secondary Teacher of the Year

Brenda Boyd has been a teacher for 29 years, the last three at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

She teaches ninth grade English.

Goose Creek Memorial Principal Al Richard described Brenda as a caring, nurturing, spitfire of a teacher.

"Brenda takes the most at-risk students we have, weeds and waters them, and watches as they blossom into successful students," he said.

But her job does not end at 2:45.

"She is quick to work with our students who are home-based because of medical issues. She works with teen mothers as their lives are turned upside down, Mr. Richard said.

"And she is the caring heart who has helped a homebound student so weak from chemotherapy treatment that she could not even sit up in bed to complete her school assignments so she could return to GCM on track to graduate with her class next week.

"She is truly a special lady."

For her part, Brenda says her honors have come from fellow teachers and former students:

"At GCM, to the younger teachers on my hallway, I am known as 'Momma Boyd'! I admit, back in my younger days, this probably would have hurt my feelings to think they thought of me as an old lady; but I wear my 'badge' proudly after 29 years! I love helping a struggling first year teacher when she walks into my room frustrated and in tears and needs advice with a student or just a shoulder to lean on. I want to melt when one of my students says to me, "Mrs. Boyd, you are like my mom. You give us advice, not just about school, but also about life. We know that you care about us."

"When one of my ex-students, working at Subway, screams across the restaurant to his fellow workers, 'Hey ya'll, this is Mrs. Boyd, she helped me pass TAKS,' I stand little taller!"

"These are the honors and awards that I will cherish forever," she said.

Evah Leigh Primeaux Elementary Teacher of the Year

Evah Leigh is a second grade teacher. She has been a Goose Creek CISD teacher for 26 years, the last 14 years at Austin Elementary.

Evah Leigh is a product of Goose Creek CISD, having attended Austin Elementary, Cedar Bayou Junior, and Ross S. Sterling High School.

In fact, it was Evah Leigh's second grade teacher at Stephen F. Austin, Mrs. Wyatt, who inspired her to become a teacher. As a senior in high school, Evah Leigh became a student assistant to Mrs. Etheridge (a.k.a. Mrs. Wyatt) through the Future Teachers of America organization.

Austin Principal Laura Smith said Evah Leigh is "what every student, parent, and certainly every administrators prays for in a teacher."

"Evah Leigh is so loved and respected by our staff. She was teacher of the year in 2001 and now again in 2011. That speaks volumes for such a dedicated teacher," said Mrs. Smith.

"Our Austin family is so fortunate to have her as part of our team," Mrs. Smith said.

In describing her life as a teacher, Evah Leigh said: "I have heard that the rewards of teaching are small. I find this to be true, for I realize the joy and fulfillment that I feel, even during the smallest moments."

"I believe that inspiring a love of learning is one of the most important roles of the teacher. I once heard a professor at the University of Texas tell a group of future primary teachers that their job is to "... not make students hate school."

"It took years for the significance of that statement to really take root with me. Most students come to school at an early age wanting to learn something, whether to read, to write in cursive, or to learn multiplication facts. The greatest disservice that a teacher can give is to stifle that desire by focusing on what the child is not able to do. I believe that it is important to acknowledge what the child is capable of doing and to build on that ability, using the strengths and interests of the child as a building block."



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