



PRESENTS THE TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Pat Adcock

Joyce Giddens-Steadham
Elementary School in Rowlett

Teacher of the Month becomes Teacher of the Year

Garland's Teacher of the Month is also Steadham Elementary's Teacher of the Year for 2003-04.

Pat Adcock found out on April 16 that she has been voted by the school's faculty as Teacher of the Year.

"I am completely honored," she says. Having taught for 30 years at various locations around the country, Ms. Adcock has found a "home" in the Garland Independent School District. She taught first grade at Northlake Elementary School in Garland for several years before the school district built a new school, Joyce Giddens-Steadham Elementary School in Rowlett. She has taught second grade since the school opened five years ago.

The children have motivated her to stay in the classroom all these years, Ms. Adcock says.

"I like teaching because you really do make a difference," she says. "As a teacher you can be a positive influence in a child's life, and send them out happy with a feeling of success."

Ms. Adcock says she truly enjoys being a part of preparing young ones for a prosperous life, and helping them learn the things they need to know as they grow. She has taught children from kindergarten through sixth grade in California, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida.

Her family moved around many times because her husband transferred to different places as a pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. Now retired, he teaches

advanced math in Dallas, and they settled in Rowlett, not too far from Ms. Adcock's hometown of Emory. Their daughter, Jennifer, is married and works as a pharmaceutical representative in Philadelphia.

Ms. Adcock might say she has teaching in her blood. Her mother was a master teacher, and her twin sister teaches fifth grade in Rockwall.

Ms. Adcock received her bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from East Texas State University, and she has done some graduate work at the University of South Carolina.

While Ms. Adcock clearly has an impact on the youngsters she teaches, she says they also make quite an impression on her. Every day is different, she says, and each day she sees in their faces that they have learned something, and she cherishes the feeling that their lives are improved because of her teaching.

"When a child is struggling and then they finally understand something, you see that light bulb go on in their head, and it's a wonderful thing," Ms. Adcock says. "That's what makes it all worthwhile."

Steadham Elementary's mission is to ensure that "all students can achieve an optimum level of competency in the areas of knowledge acquisition, citizenship, and enjoyment in a constantly changing world." As the school's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Adcock lives up to this goal every day.



Always there when you need us!

www.garlandpower-light.org