



P R E S E N T S T H E TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Andrea Broberg Hands-on experience lays foundation for teaching career

An integral part of the process of becoming a doctor is enduring large lecture classes in the first few

years of college. When Andrea Broberg realized this teaching method was not for her, she searched for a course of study that would offer a more intimate setting, and a Garland ISD Teacher of the Month was created.

“My mom has a PhD in science, so I always had a strong science background. I had always loved kids, and when I took a teaching practicum in my sophomore year at the University of Nebraska, it allowed me to spend two days a week in a second-grade classroom. I realized I loved it, and switched my major,” Ms. Broberg says.

After graduating in 2003 with a B.S. in Education and a concentration in science, Ms. Broberg met a Garland ISD recruiter at her Lincoln campus. “I wanted to move to Dallas with some college friends, and interviewed with the Garland recruiter,” the only Dallas-area district actively recruiting in Lincoln.

Ms. Broberg has been in the district ever since.

In fact, she has been part of the staff at the Classical Center at Vial Elementary since moving to the Garland area. She was hired to teach a self-contained fourth-grade class, in which she was responsible for teaching all subjects, then spent two years teaching fifth-grade science. She is currently teaching fourth-grade math and science.

Ms. Broberg says teaching fourth-grade math and science is the perfect combination of her skills and passion. “This is what I enjoy the most,” she says. Teaching the two inter-related subjects in a two-hour time block allows her to “really get to know my students well,” she says, and her commitment to them provides her a way to stay focused on what originally drew her to teaching.

“I try really hard to serve my students,” Ms. Broberg says. “I try to stay positive, because

kids feed off that and notice that. I also try to keep focused on why I wanted to teach. I try to stay organized” to avoid becoming overwhelmed by paperwork and administrative duties, she says.

“It’s interesting how many other responsibilities you have other than instruction with the kids,” Ms. Broberg says. “In college, you don’t learn about these other duties. But I like the challenge – there’s constantly something to do.”

First and foremost among those duties, of course, is providing students necessary instruction. “Science has become more and more important at the elementary level. Kids are well prepared for later grades in elementary science partly because they’re naturally interested. Also at this age, they’re motivated to learn, eager to please and affectionate,” she says.

Ms. Broberg sums up her chosen profession with these words of wisdom: “To be a good teacher, you have to accept the idea of sacrifice. This isn’t an 8-to-5 job. And while there aren’t many tangible rewards, the rewards you do get – appreciation from kid and parents – make it worthwhile,” she says. She adds that patience is another attribute a good teacher should possess. “This is definitely a people business. You have 20 or so different personalities in a classroom, and you have to have a heart for people and enjoy working with them.”

It appears Ms. Broberg has followed her own advice in her pursuit of teaching excellence. According to Vial principal Wendy Eldredge, “Her relationship with each student and the knowledge of how each one of them learns is what makes her a great teacher. Ms. Broberg has a heart for children and it shows every day she comes to work.”

Circuitous though her route to teaching might have been, Ms. Broberg considers her chosen profession a perfect fit. “This is what I enjoy the most. I definitely see myself staying in elementary – I love that level,” she says.

The Classical Center at Vial Elementary is fortunate to have a dedicated, driven teacher like Andrea Broberg on its staff, a deserving recipient Garland ISD Teacher of the Month.



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