



PRESENTS THE TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Carla Burnett

Golden Meadows
Elementary School in Rowlett

**Teacher of the Month
believes learning is a
family affair**

She doesn't wear a white coat or carry a stethoscope, but just like a doctor, Golden Meadows Elementary School teacher Carla Burnett is "on call" much of the time.

The fourth grade teacher has spent the last 15 years focusing on making the learning experience a family affair by ensuring that parents are involved. Ms. Burnett says she tries her best to be available to parents, working around their schedules and being as flexible as she can to accommodate them.

"I enjoy working with children and their parents," Ms. Burnett said. "As a teacher, you're constantly communicating with the parents, so they always know what's going on with their children's education."

"I make home visits when they can't come up to the school for conferences because they are working all day," she said. "Or, I'll call them on the cell phone to talk, or call their home — whatever makes it easy for them." "So you could say I'm 'on the job' all day."

Ms. Burnett has taught in five different districts in three different states, mostly teaching third grade. Recently her husband, Bill, a manager with CitiGroup, was transferred to North Texas. They settled in Rowlett with their 11-year-old daughter, Simone, and 2-year-old son, Will.

She joined the Garland Independent

School District and taught third grade at Heather Glen Elementary for a year. In May, she switched to fourth grade at Golden Meadows Elementary.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of teaching the fourth grade," Ms. Burnett said. "I taught fourth grade in the past, but it's been a few years, so it will be like a new experience again."

Fourth graders may be a year older than her usual students, but they also absorb knowledge like a sponge. That's why teaching is so worthwhile, she says.

"The students are still young, but they are eager to learn," Ms. Burnett said. "They learn math, reading and writing, everything they need to be ready for the TAKS Test."

Fourth grade is a pivotal year during which the children create the foundation for the remainder of their education.

Her aspirations in the field of education go beyond the classroom.

"My goal is to continue growing as a teacher, and eventually become a campus administrator," she said. "In the near future, I would like to move into an assistant principal position."

As long as her future involves education, she'll be happy.

"I do this because I have a love for children," and I love to interact with people," Ms. Burnett said. "I'm a people person."



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