

# EANESPIRATION AWARDS

## Congratulations to the Barton Creek Elementary EANESpiration winners!

### Good Samaritan Award

#### Ms. Joanie Rivera

Ms. Joanie Rivera stepped up when the classroom iTouch was broken on the second day of school. Knowing how important music can be for instruction and knowing how upset the students would be, Ms. Rivera organized donations to buy a new iTouch. The students and teachers were so appreciative for her efforts and for getting this done so quickly. Thank you, Ms. Rivera, for your kind and generous efforts!

### Educational Impact Award Winners

#### Ms. Michelle Garner

Ms. Garner creates a positive learning environment in her classroom where students are thoroughly engaged in learning. She teaches with energy, skill, creativity and dedication. Ms. Garner is often at the school late in the evening creating lessons to ensure that the individual needs of her students are met. She always has a smile on her face and a positive comment to say to her students, parents and colleagues. She is always willing to try new things; for instance, she's been instrumental in helping with the first grade composting project. Ms. Garner is a tremendous positive force at Barton Creek.

#### Ms. Amanda O'Daniel

As the Instructional Partner at Barton Creek, Ms. O'Daniel is a vital support

and resource for all of the teachers and staff. Her vast knowledge and expertise are relied upon on a daily basis and she is always willing to help out wherever and whenever needed. Ms. O'Daniel has been instrumental in working with the BCE teachers to design differentiated lessons that are both challenging and creative. Ms. O'Daniel has worked tirelessly at the district level to align curriculum and

with the students and families in the Life Skills program, but everyone is invited to participate. Mr. Engstrom is patient, positive and nurturing with his students. He is a wonderful example of a talented, dedicated teacher with heart and everyone at Barton Creek is fortunate to know him.

#### Ms. Helene Houlihan

Ms. Helene Houlihan does a great job of meeting the varying needs of the students in her Life Skills classroom. Her calm demeanor, flexibility and patience allow her students to meet their full potential in a warm and nurturing environment. Ms. Houlihan is constantly planning and working with others to ensure her students receive the very best instruction and experiences at Barton Creek. She is always looking for new and better ways to reach her students; her dedication to her students is admirable.

#### Ms. Birgit Schwickert

This is Ms. Schwickert's first year as the chair of the "Green Committee" at Barton Creek. She has researched and visited other green schools and is dedicated to making Barton Creek a greener place.

She has created "Green Party Boxes" to be used in place of parents having to purchase plates, cups and silverware for class parties and cuts down



assessments to ensure student success. Ms. O'Daniel is an asset to the BCE community and we are thrilled to have her as a part of our team.

#### Mr. Jeff Engstrom

Mr. Engstrom's energy, enthusiasm and positive attitude not only impact the students in our Life Skills program, but the entire campus. Mr. E, as he is called by his students, dedicates his time and energy with Special Olympics so our students can showcase their talents and strengths. He also organizes the annual Turkey Day luncheon

# ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

on waste created throughout the year. She also started a school-wide composting project with first graders, teaching them how to compost and they then taught the rest of the school. The children are excited to be a part of this project and have already learned important ways that they can help.

Ms. Schwickert also organized a pumpkin recycling event at Barton Creek and is now on to her next endeavor to recycle unwanted technology items on America Recycles Day. All of her ideas give the students an opportunity to learn about minimizing what they are sending to landfills, it will also raise money for the school!

Whether it's teaching sign language or helping compost leftover food in the cafeteria on Friday's, to getting up early with her kids in tow and collecting pumpkins to recycle, Ms. Schwickert is always willing to help out. Thanks for all you do for our school.

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