

At the annual Teacher Convocation, traditionally opening a new school year, Erin Merrifield was introduced as Weston's Teacher of the Year 2010-2011 to an appreciative audience of teachers, support staff, Board of Education members and several Town officials. Erin has served as a Kindergarten Teacher at Hurlbutt Elementary School since 2003.

As presented at the convocation Erin was chosen to represent Weston because she is driven by the belief that all children learn best when they feel a sense of belonging. Erin strikes the perfect balance of the social and academic curriculum.

Her Boasting Board is a great example of how Erin builds the culture in her classroom. This strategy models and teaches students how to give and receive meaningful and reflective praise.

She uses the power of relationships to drive her students to new levels of achievement. As a passionate pursuer of best practice, Erin takes on the challenge of employing new practices whether it be an innovative workshop based balanced literacy model, or fully adopting the responsive classroom model.

Because making personal connections is a top priority for Erin. Whether it is one on one instruction, a good news phone call or just a warm daily greeting at the classroom door, Erin's students know that she knows them and that she cares about them.

Erin Merrifield holds a BS Degree in Elementary Education/Special Education from Keene State College. She earned a Masters Degree in Education-Reading, from Western Connecticut State University.

Teacher of the Year Program

The Teacher of the Year Committee is made up of teachers and administrators representing all schools and the last three teachers of the year. Teachers and administrators in the district may nominate candidates that most closely align with the selection criteria. Teacher nominees are required to submit a lengthy application packet with several essay questions and personal data. Finalists undergo a rigorous interview with the district Administrative Council. The Superintendent of School makes the final selection based on the recommendation of the administrative leadership group. Weston has participated in this state sponsored program since 1984. Past Teachers of the Year include:

1985-1986 Chris Sidoli
1986-1987 Lonny Clark
1987-1988 Eileen Bengston
1988-1989 Doris Fiotakis
1989-1990 Alan Chalk
1990-1991 Wendy Cudmore
1991-1992 Nancy Mehos
1992-1993 Alan Strauss

1998-1999 Trish Epifanio
1999-2000 Linda Froschauer
2000-2001 Sharon Dominici
2001-2002 Dewey Strohmeyer
2002-2003 Margaret Taylor
2003-2004 Linda Lazar
2004-2005 Lorraine Westervelt
2005-2006 Janis Larrabee

1993-1994 James Burch
1994-1995 Wilma Donaldson
1995-1996 Shelley Hall
1996-1997 George Miller
1997-1998 Cindy Brown

2006-2007 Susan Hand
2007-2008 Sydney Girardi
2008-2009 Amanda Quaintance
2009-2010 Andrea Noble