



NEWS

Glendale Unified School District

223 North Jackson St., Glendale, CA 91206-4380 • 818-241-3111, ext. 1218 • FAX 818-548-9041

Contact: Public Information/Administrative Services

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NEWS ADVISORY

Suzanne McDonnell Selected GUSD Teacher of the Year

GLENDALE, CA - Jefferson Elementary kindergarten teacher Suzanne McDonnell has been selected as GUSD's Teacher of the Year. Ms. McDonnell will represent the District at this year's LA County Teacher of the Year competition.

Ms. McDonnell has been teaching at Jefferson Elementary since 1983. In addition to being an exceptional classroom teacher, she has supported the entire Jefferson community in multiple ways by serving on the school's leadership team and safety committee, and as a grade level chair and Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) leadership team member. This year, she is also serving on the Jefferson operations leadership team and as a lead on the Restorative Practices team.

On campus, Ms. McDonnell is known for spending countless hours preparing lessons, collecting and analyzing data, reflecting, and talking with parents. She has successfully created and enhanced an instructional program that develops and strengthens students' social emotional as well as academic skills, preparing them not only for the next grade but also for life outside of the classroom.

"Suzanne McDonnell is a gem of a kindergarten teacher," said Jefferson Elementary Principal Armineh Alexan. "Students are always engaged in language-rich learning activities, and parents are always grateful for her sound and sincere advice. What makes Ms. McDonnell truly special is her love of her students, her pride when they succeed, and her tenacity to work with even those challenging students who need the additional encouragement and care."

"Ms. McDonnell is a valuable asset to the GUSD community," said GUSD Interim Superintendent Dr. Kelly King. "She deserves all of the praise and recognition for her dedicated service to Glendale students."

For further information, please contact Kristine Nam at (818) 241-3111 x1218 or knam@gusd.net.

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